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LOS ANGELES

Where the willows, an arquer,  
Dip their long wands in the river,  
And the hemlock shadows fall  
By the gray rocks, cool and tall—

In and out,  
And round about,  
Here you go,  
There you go!

... and out, where lines blowing  
Nod above wild grasses growing,  
Where the sweet-fern and the brake  
All around rich odors make,  
Where the mosses cling and creep  
To the rocks, and up the steep—

In and out  
You wind about,  
Here and there,  
Everywhere!

Tinkle, tinkle,  
Periwinkle!

Day is done,  
And the sun

Now its royal couch hath won!

Homeward through the winding lane,

Here you go, there you go,

While the bell in sweet refrain

Tinkles clear, tinkles low,—

Tinkles softly through the gloaming,  
“Drop the bars — I’m tired of roaming

Here and there, everywhere

Through the pastures wide and fair.

Home is best,

Home and rest!”

Through the bars goes Periwinkle,  
While the bell goes tinkle, tinkle,

Low and clear,

Saying softly, “Night is here!”

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# FRIAR ANSELMO

AND OTHER POEMS,

BY

JULIA C. R. DORR.



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TO S. M. D.

*I BROUGHT thee, love, the first pale buds of spring,  
Frail blooms that trembled in the lonely dells;  
Wild violets, mayhap, or nodding bells  
Gathered when happy birds on joyous wing  
Fluttered from bough to bough to coo and sing.  
I brought thee summer roses, such as grow  
In our own garden ground, and do not know  
The grace of tenderer culture. Now I bring  
The early flowers of autumn—golden-rod  
Plucked by the wayside, asters starry-eyed,  
With here and there, alas! a crimson leaf  
That dropped, untimely, on the waiting sod.  
Dear heart! refuse not thou this later sheaf  
From fields where we have wandered side by side.*

“The Maples,” September, 1879.



FRIAR ANSELMO.



## FRIAR ANSELMO.

**F**RIAR ANSELMO for a secret sin  
Sat bowed with grief the convent cell within ;  
Nor dared, such was his shame, to lift his eyes  
To the low wall whereon, in dreadful guise,  
The dead CHRIST hung upon the cursèd tree,  
Frowning, he thought, upon his misery.  
What was his sin it matters not to tell.

But he was young and strong, the records say ;  
Perhaps he wearied of his narrow cell ;  
Perhaps he longed to work, as well as pray ;  
Perhaps his heart too warmly beat that day !  
Perhaps—for life is long—the weary road  
That he must travel, bearing as a load  
The slow, monotonous hours that, one by one,  
Dragged in a lengthening chain from sun to sun,  
Appalled his eager spirit, and his vow  
Pressed like an iron hand upon his brow.  
Perhaps some dream of love, of home, of wife,  
Had stirred this tumult in his lonely life,

Tempting his soul to barter heavenly bliss,  
And sell its birthright for a woman's kiss !  
At all events, the struggle had been hard ;  
And as a bird from the glad ether barred,  
So had he beat his wings till, bruised and torn,  
He wished that night he never had been born !  
And still the dead CHRIST on the cursèd tree  
Seemed but to mock his hopeless misery ;  
Still Mary mother turned her eyes away,  
Nor saint nor angel bent to hear him pray !

The calm, cold moonlight through the casement shone ;  
Weird shadows darkened on the floor of stone ;  
Without, what solemn splendors ! and within  
What fearful wrestlings with despair and sin !  
Sudden and loud the cloister bell outrang ;  
Afar a door swung to with sullen clang ;  
And overhead he heard the rhythmic beat,  
The measured monotone of many feet  
Seeking the chapel for the midnight prayer.  
Black wings seemed hovering round him in the air,  
Beating him back as with a stifled moan

He would have sought the holy altar stone.  
Then with a swift, sharp cry, prostrate he fell  
Before the crucifix. "The gates of hell  
Shall not prevail against me!" loud he cried,  
Stretching his arms to CHRIST, the crucified.  
"By Thy dread cross, Thy dying agony,  
Thine awful passion, LORD, deliver me!"

Was it a dream? The taunting demons fled;  
Through the dim cell a wondrous glory spread;  
And all the air was filled with rare perfumes  
Wafted from censers rich with heavenly blooms.  
Transfigured stood the CHRIST before his eyes,  
Clothed in white samite, woven in Paradise,  
And from the empty cross upon the wall  
Streamed a wide splendor that encompassed all!  
Was it a dream? Anselmo's sight grew dim;  
The cloistered chamber seemed to reel and swim;  
Yet well his spirit knew the glorious guest,  
And all his manhood rose to meet the test.  
"What wilt Thou have me, LORD, to do?" he cried  
With pallid lips, and kissed the sacred feet.

And then in accents strangely calm, yet sweet,  
These words he heard from CHRIST, the crucified,  
The pitying CHRIST his inmost soul who read,  
With all its wild unrest, its doubt and dread:  
“MAKE THOU A COPY OF MY HOLY WORD!”  
Then mystic presences about him stirred;  
The vision faded. At the dawn of day  
Prostrate and pallid in the dusk he lay.  
Was it a dream? GOD knows! The narrow cell  
Wore the old aspect he had learned so well,  
And from the crucifix upon the wall  
No glory streamed illuminating all!  
Yet still a subtle fragrance filled the room;  
And looking round him in the soft, gray gloom,  
Anselmo saw upon the fretted floor  
An eagle’s quill that this grave legend bore:  
“ He works most nobly for his fellow-men  
Who gives My word to them, by tongue or pen ! ”

Henceforth Anselmo prayed, but worked as well,  
Nor felt the bondage of his cloister cell;  
For all his soul was filled with high intent,

He had no dream save its accomplishment—  
To make a copy of the Holy Word,  
Fairer than eye had seen, or ear had heard,  
Or heart conceived of! Day by day he wrought,  
His fingers guided by a single thought;  
Forming each letter with the tenderest care,  
With points of richest color here and there;  
With birds on swaying boughs, and butterflies  
Poised on gay wings o'er sprays of eglantine;  
With tangled tracery of flower and vine  
Through which gleamed cherub faces, half divine;  
With fading leaves that drift when Summer dies,  
And angels floating down the evening skies—  
Each word an orison, each line a prayer!  
Slowly the work went on from day to day;  
The seasons came and went; May followed May;  
Year after year passed by with stately tread  
To join the countless legions of the dead,  
Till Fra Anselmo, wan and bowed with age,  
Bent, a gray monk, above the parchment page.  
Death waited till he wrote the last fair line,  
Then touched his hand and closed the Book Divine!



## POEMS.



## THE KING'S ROSEBUD.

ONLY a blushing rosebud, folding up  
Such wealth of sweetness in its dewy cup  
That the whole air was like rare incense flung  
From golden censers round high altars swung!  
One day the king passed by with stately tread,  
And, reaching forth his hand, he lightly said,  
“ All sweets are mine; therefore this rose I take,  
And wear it in my bosom for Love's sake.”  
Then, while the king passed on with smiling face,  
The sweet rose glорied in its pride of place.

But ah! the deeds that in Love's name are done!  
The woeful wrack wrought underneath the sun!  
Still with that smile upon his lip, the king  
Laid his rash hand upon the beauteous thing;

In hot haste tore the crimson leaves apart,  
And drained the sweetness from its glowing heart;  
Seared the soft petals with his fiery breath,  
Then tossed it from him to ignoble death!  
When next with idle steps I passed that way,  
Prone in the mire the king's fair rosebud lay.

## SOMEWHERE.

How can I cease to pray for thee? Somewhere  
In God's great universe thou art to-day:  
Can He not reach thee with His tender care?  
Can He not hear me when for thee I pray?

What matters it to Him who holds within  
The hollow of His hand all worlds, all space,  
That thou art done with earthly pain and sin?  
Somewhere within His ken thou hast a place.

Somewhere thou livest and hast need of Him:  
Somewhere thy soul sees higher heights to climb;  
And somewhere still there may be valleys dim  
That thou must pass to reach the hills sublime.

Then all the more, because thou canst not hear  
Poor human words of blessing, will I pray,  
O true, brave heart! God bless thee, wheresoe'er  
In His great universe thou art to-day!

## A SECRET.

IT is your secret and mine, love!  
Ah, me! how the dreary rain  
With a slow persistence, all day long  
Dropped on the window pane!  
The chamber was weird with shadows  
And dark with the deepening gloom  
Where you, in your royal womanhood,  
Lay waiting for the tomb.

They had robed you all in white, love;  
In your hair was a single rose—  
A marble rose it might well have been  
In its cold and still repose!

O, paler than yonder carven saint,  
And calm as the angels are,  
You seemed so near me, my beloved,  
Yet were, alas, so far!

I do not know if I wept, love ;  
But my soul rose up and said,—  
“ My heart shall speak unto her heart,  
Though here she is lying—dead !  
I will give her a last love-token  
That shall be to her a sign  
In the dark grave—or beyond it!—  
Of this deathless love of mine.

So I sought me a little scroll, love ;  
And thereon, in eager haste,  
Lest another's eye should read them  
Some mystic words I traced.  
Then close in your claspèd fingers,  
Close in your waxen hand,  
I placed the scroll for an amulet,  
Sure you would understand !

The secret is yours and mine, love !  
Only we two may know  
What words shine clear in the darkness,  
Of your grave so green and low.  
But if when we meet hereafter,  
In the dawn of some fairer day,  
You whisper those mystical words, love,  
It is all I would have you say !

## PERADVENTURE.

I AM thinking to-night of the little child  
That lay on my breast three summer days,  
Then swiftly, silently, dropped from sight,  
While my soul cried out in sore amaze.

It is fifteen years ago to-night ;  
Somewhere, I know, he has lived them through,  
Perhaps with never a thought or dream  
Of the mother-heart he never knew !

Is he yet but a babe ? or has he grown  
To be like his brothers, fair and tall,  
With a clear bright eye, and a springing step,  
And a voice that rings like a bugle call ?

I loved him. The rose in his waxen hand  
Was wet with the dew of my falling tears ;

I have kept the thought of my baby's grave  
Through all the length of these changeful years.

Yet the love I gave him was not like that  
I give to-day to my other boys,  
Who have grown beside me, and turned to me  
In all their griefs and in all their joys.

Do you think he knows it? I wonder much  
If the dead are passionless, cold and dumb;  
If into the calm of the deathless years  
No thrill of a human love may come!

Perhaps sometimes from the upper air  
He has seen me walk with his brothers three;  
Or felt in the tender twilight hour  
The breath of the kisses they gave to me!

Over his birthright, lost so soon,  
Perhaps he has sighed as the swift years flew;  
O child of my heart! you shall find somewhere  
The love that on earth you never knew!

## RENA.

(A LEGEND OF BRUSSELS.)

### I.

ST. GUDULA's bells were chiming for the midnight,  
sad and slow,  
In the ancient town of Brussels, many and many a  
year ago,

And St. Michael, poised so grandly on his lofty, airy  
height,  
Seemed transfigured in the glory of the full moon's  
tender light,

When, a fair and saintly maiden, crowned with locks  
of palest gold,  
Rena stood beside her lover, son of Hildebrand the  
Bold.

She with grief and tears was pallid; but his face was hard and stern:

All the passion of his being in his dark eyes seemed to burn.

“Never dream that I will give thee back thy plighted faith,” he cried,

“By St. Michael’s sword I swear it, thou, my love, shalt be my bride!”

“Nay, but hear me,” she responded; “hear the words that I must speak;

I must speak, and thou must hearken, though my heart is like to break.

“Yestermorn, as I sat spinning blithely at my cottage door,

Straightway fell a stately shadow in the sunshine on the floor;

“And a figure stood before me, so majestic and so grand,

That I knew it in a moment for the mighty Hildebrand ;—

“ Stood and gazed on me till downward at my feet  
the distaff dropped,

And in all my veins the pulsing of the swift life-current stopped.

“ ‘Thou art Rena,’ then he uttered, and he swore a  
dreadful oath,

And the tempest of his anger beat on me and on  
us both.

“ ‘She who thinks to wed with Volmar must have  
lands and gold,’ said he,

‘Or must come of noble lineage, fit to mate with  
mine and me !

“ ‘Thou art but a peasant maiden, empty-handed,  
lowly born ;

All the ladies of my castle would look down on thee  
with scorn.

“‘ Even he will weary of thee when his passion once  
is spent,

Vainly cursing her who doomed him to an endless  
discontent ! ’

“ Then I, trembling, rose up slowly, and I looked  
him in the face,

Though the dreadful frown it wore seemed to darken  
all the place.

“‘ Sir, I thank you for this warning,’ said I, speak-  
ing low and clear,

‘ But the laughter of your ladies I must teach my  
heart to bear.

“‘ For the rest—your son is noble—and my simple  
womanhood ’

He will hold in loving honor, as a saint the holy  
rood ! ’

“ Oh ! then his stern face whitened, and a bitter  
laugh laughed he :

‘ Truly this my son is noble, and he shall not wed  
with thee.

“ ‘ Hear my words now, and remember ! for by this  
good sword I swear,  
And by Michael standing yonder, watching us from  
upper air,

“ ‘ If he dares to place a wedding-ring upon your  
dowerless hand,  
On his head shall fall a father’s curse—the curse of  
Hildebrand ! ’

“ O, my Volmar ! Then the earth rocked, and I fell  
down in a swoon ;  
When I woke the room was silent ; it was past the  
hour of noon ;

“ And I waited for thy coming, as the captive waits  
for death,  
With a mingled dread and longing, and a half-abated  
breath ! ”

Straight the young man bowed before her, as before  
a holy shrine :

“Never hand of high-born lady was more richly  
dowered than thine !

“What care I for gold or honors, or—my—father’s  
—curse ? ” he said ;

But the words died out in shudders, and his face  
grew like the dead.

Then she twined her white arms round him, and she  
murmured, sweet and low,

As the night wind breathing softly over banks where  
violets blow :

“He who is accursed of father, he shall be accursed  
of God,’

Long ago said one who followed where the holy  
prophets trod.

“Kiss me once, then, O my Volmar ! just once more,  
my Volmar dear,

Even as you would kiss my white lips if I lay upon  
my bier!

“ For a gulf as dark as death has opened wide 'twixt  
thee and me ;

Neither thou nor I can cross it, and thy wife I may  
not be ! ”

## II.

ONCE again the bells of midnight chimed from St.  
Gudula's towers,

While St. Michael watched the city slumbering through  
the ghostly hours.

But no slumber came to Rena where she moaned in  
bitter pain,

For the anguish of that parting wrought its work on  
heart and brain.

Suddenly the air grew heavy as with magical per-  
fume,

And a weird and wondrous splendor filled the dim  
and silent room.

In the middle of the chamber stood a lady fair and  
sweet,

With bright tresses falling softly to her small and  
sandaled feet.

Flushed her cheeks were as a wild rose, and the  
glory of her eyes

Was the laughing light and glory of the kindling  
morning skies.

Airy robes of lightest tissue from her white arms  
floated free;

They seemed woven of the mist that curls above the  
azure sea,

Wrought in curious devices, star and wheel and leaf  
and flower,

That, like frost upon a window-pane, might vanish  
in an hour.

In her hands she bore a cushion, quaintly fashioned,  
strangely set

With small silver pins that spanned it like a branch-  
ing coronet;

And from threads of finest texture swung light bob-  
bins to and fro,

As the lady stood illumined in the weird and won-  
drous glow.

Not a single word she uttered; but, as silent as a  
shade,

Down the room she swiftly glided and beside the  
startled maid

Knelt, a radiant vision, smiling into Rena's wonder-  
ing eyes,

Giving arch yet gracious answer to her tremulous  
surprise.

Then she laid the satin cushion on the wondering  
maiden's knee,

And to all her mute bewilderment, no syllable spake  
she.

But, as in and out and round about, the silver pins  
among,

Flashed the white hand of the lady, and the shining  
bobbins swung,

Lo! a web of fairy lightness like the misty robe she  
wore,

Swiftly grew beneath her fingers, drifting downward  
to the floor!

And as Rena looked and wondered, inch by inch  
the marvel grew,

Till the eastern windows brightened as the gray  
dawn struggled through.

Then the lady's hand touched Rena's, and she  
pointed far away,

Where the palace towers were gleaming in the first  
red light of day.

But when once again the maiden turned her glance  
within the room,

With the lady fair had vanished all the splendor and  
perfume.

Still the satin cushion lay there, quaintly fashioned,  
strangely set

With the silver pins that spanned it like a branching  
coronet;

Still the light web she had woven lay in drifts upon  
the floor,

Like the mist wreaths resting softly on some lone,  
enchanted shore !

### III.

SLOWLY Rena raised the cushion, with her sweet  
eyes shining clear,

Lightly tossed the fairy bobbins, half in gladness,  
half in fear.

Ah ! not vain had been her watching as the lovely lady wrought ;  
All the magic of her fingers her own cunning hand had caught !

Many a day above the cushion Rena's peerless head was bent,  
And through many a solemn night she labored on with sweet intent.

For, mayhap, the mystic marvels that she wove might bring her gold —  
A fair dowry fit to match the pride of Hildebrand the Bold !

Then she braided up her long hair, and put on her russet gown,  
And with wicker basket laden passed she swiftly through the town,  
To the palace where Queen Ildegar, with dames of high degree,

In a lofty oriel window sat, the beauteous morn to see.

In the door-way she stood meekly, till the queen said, " Maiden fair,

What have you in yonder basket that you carry with such care ? "

Eagerly she raised her blue eyes, hovering smiles and tears between,

Then across the room she glided, and knelt down before the queen.

Lifting up the wicker cover, " Saints in heaven ! " cried Ildegar,

" Here are tissues fit for angels, wrought with wreath and point and star,

" In most curious devices ! Never saw I aught so rare—

Where found you these frail webs woven of the lightest summer air ? "

“ Well they may be fit for angels,” said she, underneath her breath ;

“ O my lady, hear a story that is strange and true as death.”

But ere yet the tale was ended, up rose good Queen Ildegar,

And she sent her knights and pages to the castle riding far.

“ Bring me Hildebrand and Volmar, ere the sun goes down ! ” she cried,

“ Ho ! my ladies, for a wedding, and your queen shall bless the bride !

“ I will buy these airy wonders, and this maiden in her hand

Shall a dowry hold as royal as the noblest in the land.”

So they combed her shining tresses, and they brought her robes of silk,

Broidered thick with gold and silver, on a ground as white as milk.

But she whispered, "Sweetest ladies, let me wear my russet gown,

That I wore this happy morning walking blithely through the town.

"I am but a peasant maiden, all unused to grand estate,

And for robes of silken splendor, dearest ladies, let me wait!"

Then the good queen, smiling brightly, from the wicker basket took

Lightest web of quaintest pattern, and its filmy folds outshook.

With her own white hand she laid it over Rena's golden hair,

And she cried, "Oh, look, my ladies! Ne'er before was bride so fair!"

Ladies ! when you wear your Brussels laces, costlier  
far than gold,

Think of Rena, and her lover, son of Hildebrand  
the Bold !

## WHAT NEED ?

*“ What need has the singer to sing ?  
And why should your poet to-day  
His pale little garland of poesy bring,  
On the altar to lay ?  
High-priests of song the harp-strings swept  
Ages before he smiled or wept ! ”*

What need have the roses to bloom ?  
And why do the tall lilies grow ?  
And why do the violets shed their perfume  
When night-winds breathe low ?  
They are no whit more bright and fair  
Than flowers that breathed in Eden’s air !

What need have the stars to shine on ?  
Or the clouds to grow red in the west,  
When the sun, like a king, from the fields he has won,  
Goes grandly to rest ?  
No brighter they than stars and skies  
That greeted Eve’s sweet, wondering eyes !

What need has the eagle to soar  
So proudly straight up to the sun ?  
Or the robin such jubilant music to pour  
When day is begun ?  
The eagles soared, the robins sung,  
As high, as sweet, when earth was young !

What need, do you ask me ? Each day  
Hath a song and a prayer of its own,  
As each June hath its crown of fresh roses, each May  
Its bright emerald throne !  
Its own high thought each age shall stir,  
Each needs its own interpreter !

And thou, O, my poet, sing on !  
Sing on until love shall grow old ;  
Till patience and faith their last triumphs have won,  
And truth is a tale that is told !  
Doubt not, thy song shall still be new  
While life endures and God is true !

## THE KISS.

WHEN you lay before me dead,  
    In such pallid rest,  
On those passive lips of thine  
    Not one kiss I pressed!

Did you wonder—looking down  
    From some higher sphere—  
Knowing how we two had loved  
    Many and many a year?

Did you think me strange and cold  
    When I did not touch,  
Even with reverent finger-tips,  
    What I had loved so much?

Ah! when last you kissed me, dear,  
    Know you what you said?

“Take this last kiss, my beloved,  
Soon shall I be dead!

“Keep it for a solemn sign,  
Through our love’s long night,  
Till you give it back again  
On some morning bright.”

So I gave you no caress;  
But, remembering this,  
Warm upon my lips I keep  
Your last living kiss!

## WHAT SHE THOUGHT.

MARION showed me her wedding gown  
And her veil of gossamer lace to-night,  
And the orange-blooms that to-morrow morn  
Shall fade in her soft hair's golden light.  
But Philip came to the open door:  
Like the heart of a wild-rose glowed her cheek,  
And they wandered off through the garden paths  
So blest that they did not care to speak.

I wonder how it seems to be loved;  
To know you are fair in some one's eyes; —  
That upon some one your beauty dawns  
Every day as a new surprise;  
To know, that, whether you weep or smile,  
Whether your mood be grave or gay,  
Somebody thinks you, all the while,  
Sweeter than any flower of May.

I wonder what it would be to love:  
That, I think, would be sweeter far,  
To know that one out of all the world  
Was lord of your life, your king, your star.  
They talk of love's sweet tumult and pain:  
I am not sure that I understand,  
Though—a thrill ran down to my finger-tips  
Once when—somebody—touched my hand!

I wonder what it would be to dream  
Of a child that might one day be your own;  
Of the hidden springs of your life a part,  
Flesh of your flesh, and bone of your bone.  
Marion stooped one day to kiss  
A beggar's babe with a tender grace;  
While some sweet thought, like a prophecy,  
Looked from her pure Madonna face.

I wonder what it must be to think  
To-morrow will be your wedding-day,  
And you, in the radiant sunset glow  
Down fragrant flowery paths will stray,

As Marion does this blessed night,  
With Philip, lost in a blissful dream.  
Can she feel his heart through the silence beat ?  
Does he see her eyes in the starlight gleam ?

Questioning thus, my days go on ;  
But never an answer comes to me :  
All love's mysteries, sweet as strange,  
Sealed away from my life must be.  
Yet still I dream, O heart of mine !  
Of a beautiful city that lies afar ;  
And there, some time, I shall drop the mask,  
And be shapely and fair as others are.

## THIS DAY.

I WONDER what is this day to you,  
    Looking down from the upper skies !  
Is there a pang at your gentle heart ?  
    Is there a shade in your tender eyes ?  
Do you think up there of the whispered words  
    That thrilled your soul in the long ago ?  
Does ever a haunting undertone  
    Blend with the chantings sweet and low ?

When this day dawned (if where you are  
    Skies grow red when the morn is near)  
Did you know that before its close  
    The love once yours would be on its bier ?  
Did you know that another's lip  
    Would redden with kisses once your own,  
And the golden cup of a younger life  
    O'erflow with the wine once yours alone ?

Do you remember? Ah! my saint,  
Bend your ear from the ether blue!  
Have you risen to heights so far  
That earth and its loves are nought to you?  
Do you care that your place is filled?  
Does it matter that now at last  
The turf above you has grown so deep  
That its shadow overlies your past?

O, belovèd, I may not know!  
Heaven is afar, and the grave is dumb,  
And out of the silence so profound  
Neither token nor voice may come!  
We try to think that we understand;  
But whether you wake, or whether you sleep,  
Or whether our deeds are aught to you,  
Is still a mystery strange and deep!

## UNANSWERED.

WHERE mountain-peaks rose far and high  
Into the blue, unclouded sky,  
And waves of green, like billowy seas,  
Tossed proudly in the freshening breeze,

I rode one morning, late in June.  
The glad winds sang a pleasant tune;  
The air, like draughts of rarest wine,  
Made every breath a joy divine.

With roses all the way was bright;  
Yet there upon that upland height  
The darlings of the early spring—  
Blue violets—were blossoming.

And all the meadows, wide unrolled,  
Were green and silver, green and gold,

Where buttercups and daisies spun  
Their shining tissues in the sun.

Over its shallow, pebbly bed,  
A sparkling river gayly sped,  
Nor cared that deeper waters bore  
A grander freight from shore to shore.

It sung, it danced, it laughed, it played,  
In sunshine now and now in shade ;  
While every gnarled tree joyed to make  
A greener garland for its sake.

Deep peace was in the summer air,  
A peace all Nature seemed to share ;  
Yet even there I could not flee  
The shadow of life's mystery !

A farm-house stood beside the way,  
Low-roofed and rambling, quaint and gray ;  
And where the friendly door swung wide  
Red roses climbed on either side.

And thither, down the winding road  
Near which the sparkling river flowed,  
In groups, in pairs, the neighbors pressed,  
Each in his Sunday raiment dressed.

A sober calm was on each face ;  
Sweet stillness brooded o'er the place ;  
Yet something of a festal air  
The youths and maidens seemed to wear.

But, as I passed, an idle breeze  
Swept through the quivering maple-trees ;  
Chased by the winds in merry rout,  
A fair, light curtain floated out.

And this I saw : a quiet room  
Adorned with flowers of richest bloom—  
A lily here, a garland there—  
Fragrance and silence everywhere.

Then on I rode. But if a bride  
Should there her happy blushes hide,

Or if beyond my vision lay  
Some pale face shrouded from the day,

I could not tell. O Joy and Pain,  
Your voices join in one refrain!  
So like ye are, we may not know  
If this be gladness, this be woe!

## “CHRISTUS!”

OVER the desolate sea-side town  
With a terrible tumult the night came down,  
And the fierce wind swept through the empty street,  
With the drifting snow for a winding-sheet.  
Elsie, the fisherman's daughter, in bed  
Lay and listened in awe and dread,  
But sprang to her feet in sudden fear  
When over the tempest, loud and clear,  
    A voice cried, “Christus!”

“Christus! Christus!” and nothing more.  
Was it a cry at the cottage-door?  
She left her chamber with flying feet;  
She loosened the bolts with fingers fleet;  
She lifted the latch, but only the din

Of the furious storm and the snow swept in.  
She looked without: not a soul was there,  
But still rang out on the startled air  
    The strange cry, “Christus !”

“Christus ! Christus !” She slept at last,  
Though the old house rocked in the wintry blast ;  
And when she awoke the world was still,  
A wide, white silence from sea to hill.  
No creature stirred in the morning glow ;  
There was not a footprint in the snow ;  
Yet again through the hush, as faint and far  
As if it came from another star,  
    A voice sighed, “Christus !”

“Christus ! Christus !” Who can it be,  
O Christ our Lord, that is calling Thee  
In a foreign tongue, with a woe as wild  
As that of some lost, forsaken child ?  
She turned from the window with startled gaze :  
She clasped her hands in a pale amaze,  
Hearkening still, till again she heard,

As in a waking dream, the word—  
That strange word, “Christus!”

Then over the hill with weary feet  
She toiled through the drifts to the village-street.  
The villagers gathered in eager haste,  
And all day long in the snowy waste  
They sought in vain for the one who cried  
To Him who of old was crucified:  
Then, turning away with a laugh, they said,  
“T was only the wild wind overhead,  
Your cry of ‘Christus!’”

She watched their going with earnest eyes :  
Hark ! what voice to the taunt replies ?  
The trees were still as if struck with death ;  
The wind was soft as a baby’s breath ;  
The sobbing sea was asleep at last,  
Scourged no more by the furious blast ;  
Yet, surely as ever from human tongue  
A cry of grief or despair was wrung,  
Some voice sighed, “Christus !”

Burned on her cheek a sudden flame  
As her heart's strong throbings went and came,  
And she stood alone on the lonely shore,  
Gazing the wide black waters o'er.

“Whether it comes from heaven or hell,  
This voice I have learned to know too well—  
Whether from lips alive or dead,  
Or from the hovering air,” she said—  
“Whether it comes from sea or land,  
I will not sleep till I understand  
    This cry of ‘Christus!’”

“Christus! Christus!” Faint and slow  
Rose the wail from the drifted snow  
Under a low-browed, beetling rock,  
Strong to withstand the whirlwind's shock.  
There, in the heart of the snowy mound,  
The buried form of a man she found—  
A Spanish sailor, with beard of brown  
Over his red scarf flowing down,  
And jeweled ears that were strange to see.  
She was bending over it, when—ah me!—  
    The shrill cry, “Christus!”

Rang out as if from the stony lips  
Whence life had parted in drear eclipse,  
As if the soul of the dead man cried  
Again unto Christ the Crucified.

The rose had fled from her cheeks so red,  
But still she knelt by his side and said,  
Under her breath, "I must understand  
Whether from heaven or sea or land  
Comes that cry, 'Christus!'"

She laid her hand on the pulseless breast :  
What fluttered beneath the crimson vest ?  
A bird with plumage of green and gold,  
Nestling away from the piercing cold,  
Was folded close to the silent heart  
From which it had felt the life depart ;  
And when she held it against her cheek,  
As plainly as ever a bird could speak  
It sobbed out, "Christus!"

And evermore when the winds blew loud,  
And the trees in the grasp of the storm were bowed,

And the lowering wings of the tempest beat  
The drifting snow in the village-street,  
Just as its master in death had cried  
To Christ, the Holy, the Crucified,  
Pouring his soul in one wild word—  
Pray God that the cry in heaven was heard!—  
The bird cried, “ Christus ! ”

## THE CLAY TO THE ROSE.

O BEAUTIFUL, royal Rose,  
O Rose, so fair and sweet!  
Queen of the garden art thou,  
And I—the Clay at thy feet !

The butterfly hovers about thee ;  
The brown bee kisses thy lips ;  
And the humming-bird, reckless rover,  
Their marvelous sweetness sips.

The sunshine hastes to caress thee  
Flying on pinions fleet ;  
The dew-drop sleeps in thy bosom,  
But I—I lie at thy feet !

The radiant morning crowns thee ;  
And the noon's hot heart is thine ;

And the starry night enfolds thee  
In the might of its love divine;

I hear the warm rain whisper  
Its message soft and sweet;  
And the south-wind's passionate murmur,  
While I lie low at thy feet!

It is not mine to approach thee;  
I never may kiss thy lips,  
Or touch the hem of thy garment  
With tremulous finger-tips.

Yet, O thou beautiful Rose!  
Queen rose, so fair and sweet,  
What were lover or crown to thee  
Without the Clay at thy feet?

## TWO.

WE two will stand in the shadow here,  
To see the bride as she passes by ;  
Ring soft and low, ring loud and clear,  
Ye chiming bells that swing on high !  
Look ! look ! she comes ! The air grows sweet  
With the fragrant breath of the orange blooms,  
And the flowers she treads beneath her feet  
Die in a flood of rare perfumes !

She comes ! she comes ! The happy bells  
With their joyous clamor fill the air,  
While the great organ dies and swells,  
Soaring to trembling heights of prayer !  
Oh ! rare are her robes of silken sheen,  
And the pearls that gleam on her bosom's snow ;  
But rarer the grace of her royal mien,  
Her hair's fine gold, and her cheek's young glow.

Dainty and fair as a folded rose,  
Fresh as a violet dewy sweet,  
Chaste as a lily, she hardly knows  
That there are rough paths for other feet.  
For Love hath shielded her; Honor kept  
Watch beside her by night and day;  
And Evil out from her sight hath crept,  
Trailing its slow length far away.

Now in her perfect womanhood,  
In all the wealth of her matchless charms,  
Lovely and beautiful, pure and good,  
She yields herself to her lover's arms.  
Hark! how the jubilant voices ring!  
Lo! as we stand in the shadow here,  
While far above us the gay bells swing,  
I catch the gleam of a happy tear!

The pageant is over. Come with me  
To the other side of the town, I pray,  
Ere the sun goes down in the darkening sea,  
And night falls around us, chill and gray.

In the dim church porch an hour ago,  
We waited the bride's fair face to see ;  
Now Life has a sadder sight to show,  
A darker picture for you and me.

No need to seek for the shadow here ;  
There are shadows lurking everywhere ;  
These streets in the brightest day are drear,  
And black as the blackness of despair.  
But this is the house. Take heed, my friend,  
The stairs are rotten, the way is dim ;  
And up the flights, as we still ascend,  
Creep stealthy phantoms dark and grim.

Enter this chamber. Day by day,  
Alone in this chill and ghostly room,  
A child—a woman—which is it, pray ?—  
Despairingly waits for the hour of doom !  
Ah ! as she wrings her hands so pale,  
No gleam of a wedding ring you see ;  
There is nothing to tell. You know the tale—  
God help her now in her misery !

I dare not judge her. I only know  
That love was to her a sin and a snare,  
While to the bride of an hour ago  
It brought all blessings its hands could bear!  
I only know that to one it came  
Laden with honor, and joy, and peace:  
Its gifts to the other were woe and shame,  
And a burning pain that shall never cease!

I only know that the soul of one  
Has been a pearl in a golden case;  
That of the other a pebble thrown  
Idly down in a way-side place,  
Where all day long strange footsteps trod,  
And the bold, bright sun drank up the dew!  
Yet both were women. O righteous God,  
Thou only canst judge between the two!

## EVENTIDE.

WHENEVER, with reverent footsteps,  
I pass through the mystic door  
Of Memory's stately palace,  
Where dwell the days of yore,  
One scene, like a lovely vision,  
Comes to me o'er and o'er.

'T is a dim, fire-lighted chamber;  
There are pictures on the wall,  
And around them dance the shadows  
Grotesque and weird and tall,  
As the flames on the storied hearth-stone  
Wavering rise and fall.

An ancient cabinet stands there,  
That came from beyond the seas,  
With a breath of spicy odors

Caught from the Indian breeze ;  
And its fluted doors and moldings  
Are dark with mysteries.

There 's an old arm-chair in the corner,  
Straight-backed and tall and quaint ;  
Ah ! many a generation—  
Sinner and sage and saint—  
It hath held in its ample bosom  
With murmur nor complaint !

In the glow of the fire-light playing,  
A tiny, blithesome pair,  
With the music of their laughter  
Fill all the tranquil air,—  
A rosy, brown-eyed lassie,  
A boy serenely fair.

A woman sits in the shadow  
Watching the children twain,  
With a joy so deep and tender  
It is near akin to pain,

And a smile and tear blend softly—  
Sunshine and April rain !

Her heart keeps time to the rhythm  
Of love's unuttered prayer,  
As, with still hands lightly folded,  
She listens, unaware,  
Through all the children's laughter,  
For a footfall on the stair.

I know the woman who sits there ;  
Time hath been kind to her,  
And the years have brought her treasures  
Of frankincense and myrrh  
Richer, perhaps, and rarer,  
Than Life's young roses were.

But I doubt if ever her spirit  
Hath known, or yet shall know,  
The bliss of a happier hour,  
As the swift years come and go,  
Than this in the shadowy chamber  
Lit by the hearth-fire's glow !

## TO THE "BOUQUET CLUB."

O ROSEBUD garland of girls!  
Who ask for a song from me,  
To what sweet air shall I set my lay?  
What shall its key-note be?  
The flowers have gone from wood and hill;  
The rippling river lies white and still;  
And the bird that sang on the maple bough,  
Afar in the South-land singeth now!

O Rosebud garland of girls!  
If the whole glad year were May;  
If winds sang low in the clustering leaves,  
And roses bloomed alway;  
If youth were all that there is of life;  
If the years brought nothing of care or strife,  
Nor even a cloud to the ether blue,  
It were easy to sing a song for you!

Yet, O my garland of girls !  
Is there nothing better than May ?  
The golden glow of the harvest time !  
The rest of the Autumn day !  
This thought I give to you all to keep :  
Who soweth good seed shall surely reap ;  
The year grows rich as it groweth old,  
And life's latest sands are its sands of gold !

## AT THE LAST.

WILL the day ever come, I wonder,  
When I shall be glad to know  
That my hands will be folded under  
The next white fall of the snow ?  
To know that when next the clover  
Wooeth the wandering bee,  
Its crimson tide will drift over  
All that is left of me ?

Will I ever be tired of living,  
And be glad to go to my rest,  
With a cool and fragrant lily  
Asleep on my silent breast ?  
Will my eyes grow weary of seeing,  
As the hours pass, one by one,  
Till I long for the hush and the darkness  
As I never longed for the sun ?

God knoweth ! Sometime, it may be,  
I shall smile to hear you say :  
“ Dear heart ! she will not waken  
At the dawn of another day ! ”  
And sometime, love, it may be,  
I shall whisper under my breath :  
“ The happiest hour of my life, dear,  
Is this—the hour of my death ! ”

## MY LOVERS.

I HAVE four noble lovers,  
Young and gallant, blithe and gay,  
And in all the land no maiden  
Hath a goodlier troupe than they !  
And never princess, guarded  
By knights of high degree,  
Knew sweeter, purer homage  
Than my lovers pay to me !

One of my noble lovers  
Is a self-poised, thoughtful man,  
Gravely gay, serenely earnest,  
Strong to do, and bold to plan !  
And one is sweet and sunny,  
Pure as crystal, true as steel,  
With a soul responding ever  
When the truth makes high appeal !

And another of my lovers,  
Bright and *debonair* is he,  
Brave and ardent, strong and tender,  
And the flower of courtesie !  
Last of all, an eager student,  
Upon lofty aims intent :  
Manly force and gentle sweetness  
In his nature rarely blent !

But when of noble lovers  
All alike are dear and true,  
And her heart to choose refuses,  
Pray, what can a woman do ?  
Ah, my sons ! For this I bless ye,  
Even as I myself am blest,  
That I know not which is dearest,  
That I care not which is best !

## THE LEGEND OF THE ORGAN-BUILDER.

DAY by day the Organ-Builder in his lonely chamber wrought;  
Day by day the soft air trembled to the music of his thought;

Till at last the work was ended, and no organ voice so grand  
Ever yet had soared responsive to the master's magic hand.

Ay, so rarely was it builded that whenever groom or bride  
Who in God's sight were well-pleasing in the church stood side by side,

Without touch or breath the organ of itself began to play,

And the very airs of heaven through the soft gloom  
seemed to stray.

He was young, the Organ-Builder, and o'er all the  
land his fame

Ran with fleet and eager footsteps, like a swiftly  
rushing flame.

All the maidens heard the story; all the maidens  
blushed and smiled,

By his youth and wondrous beauty and his great  
renown beguiled.

So he sought and won the fairest, and the wedding  
day was set:

Happy day—the brightest jewel in the glad year's  
coronet!

But when they the portal entered, he forgot his  
lovely bride—

Forgot his love, forgot his God, and his heart  
swelled high with pride.

“ Ah ! ” thought he, “ how great a master am I !  
When the organ plays,  
How the vast cathedral arches will re-echo with my  
praise ! ”

Up the aisle the gay procession moved. The altar  
shone afar,  
With its every candle gleaming through soft shadows  
like a star.

But he listened, listened, listened, with no thought  
of love or prayer,  
For the swelling notes of triumph from his organ  
standing there.

All was silent. Nothing heard he save the priest’s  
low monotone,  
And the bride’s robe trailing softly o’er the floor of  
fretted stone.

Then his lips grew white with anger. Surely God  
was pleased with him

Who had built the wondrous organ for His temple  
vast and dim?

Whose the fault, then? Hers—the maiden standing  
meekly at his side!

Flamed his jealous rage, maintaining she was false  
to him—his bride.

Vain were all her protestations, vain her innocence  
and truth;

On that very night he left her to her anguish and  
her ruth.

\* \* \* \* \*

Far he wandered to a country wherein no man knew  
his name.

For ten weary years he dwelt there, nursing still his  
wrath and shame.

Then his haughty heart grew softer, and he thought  
by night and day

Of the bride he had deserted, till he hardly dared  
to pray—

Thought of her, a spotless maiden, fair and beautiful  
and good;

Thought of his relentless anger that had cursed her  
womanhood;

Till his yearning grief and penitence at last were all  
complete,

And he longed, with bitter longing, just to fall down  
at her feet.

\* \* \* \* \*

Ah! how throbbed his heart when, after many a  
weary day and night,

Rose his native towers before him, with the sunset  
glow alight!

Through the gates into the city on he pressed with  
eager tread;

There he met a long procession—mourners following  
the dead.

“Now why weep ye so, good people? and whom  
bury ye to-day?

Why do yonder sorrowing maidens scatter flowers along the way?

“Has some saint gone up to Heaven?” “Yes,” they answered, weeping sore:

“For the Organ-Builder’s saintly wife our eyes shall see no more;

“And because her days were given to the service of God’s poor,

From His church we mean to bury her. See! yonder is the door.”

No one knew him; no one wondered when he cried out, white with pain;

No one questioned when, with pallid lips, he poured his tears like rain.

“ ’T is some one whom she has comforted who mourns with us,” they said,

As he made his way unchallengèd, and bore the coffin’s head.

Bore it through the open portal, bore it up the  
echoing aisle,

Set it down before the altar, where the lights burned  
clear the while :

When, oh, hark ! the wondrous organ of itself began  
to play

Strains of rare, unearthly sweetness never heard until  
that day !

All the vaulted arches rang with the music sweet  
and clear ;

All the air was filled with glory, as of angels hovering  
near ;

And ere yet the strain was ended, he who bore the  
coffin's head,

With the smile of one forgiven, gently sank beside  
it — dead.

They who raised the body knew him, and they laid  
him by his bride ;

Down the aisle and o'er the threshold they were  
carried side by side;

While the organ played a dirge that no man ever  
heard before,

And then softly sank to silence—silence kept for  
evermore.

## AT DAWN.

AT dawn when the jubilant morning broke,  
And its glory flooded the mountain side,  
I said, " 'T is eleven years to-day,  
Eleven years since my darling died ! "

And then I turned to my household ways,  
To my daily tasks, without, within,  
As happily busy all the day  
As if my darling had never been ! —

As if she had never lived, or died !  
Yet when they buried her out of my sight,  
I thought the sun had gone down at noon,  
And the day could never again be bright.

Ah, well ! As the swift years come and go,  
It will not be long ere I shall lie

Somewhere under a bit of turf,  
With my pale hands folded quietly.

And then some one who has loved me well—  
Perhaps the one who has loved me best—  
Will say of me as I said of her,  
“She has been just so many years at rest,”—

Then turn to the living loves again,  
To the busy life, without, within,  
And the day will go on from dawn to dusk,  
Even as if I had never been !

Dear hearts! dear hearts! It must still be so!  
The roses will bloom, and the stars will shine,  
And the soft green grass creep still and slow,  
Sometime over a grave of mine—

And over the grave in your hearts as well!  
Ye cannot hinder it if ye would;  
And I—ah! I shall be wiser then—  
I would not hinder it if I could!

## KING IVAN'S OATH.

KING IVAN ruled a mighty land  
Girt by the sea on either hand;  
A goodly land as e'er the sun  
In its long journey looked upon!  
His knights were loyal, brave, and true,  
Eager their lord's behests to do;  
His counselors were wise and just,  
Nor ever failed his kingly trust;  
The nations praised him, and the state  
Grew powerful, and rich, and great;  
While still with long and loud acclaim,  
His people hailed their monarch's name!

Fronting the east, a stately pile,  
The palace caught the sun's first smile;  
Lightly its domes and arches sprung,  
As earth's glad hills when earth was young;

And, miracles of airy grace,  
Each tower and turret soared in space.  
Within —— But here no rhythmic flow  
Of words with light and warmth aglow  
Can tell the story. Not more fair  
Are your own castles hung in air !  
Painter and sculptor there had wrought  
The utmost beauty of their thought ;  
There the rich fruit of Persian looms  
Glowed darkly bright as tropic blooms ;  
There fell the light like golden mist,  
Filtered through clouds of amethyst ;  
There bright-winged birds and odorous flowers  
With song and fragrance filled the hours ;  
There Pleasure flung the portals wide,  
And soul and sense were satisfied !

The queen ? No fairer face than hers  
E'er smiled upon its worshipers ;  
And she was good as fair, 't was said,  
And loved the king ere they were wed.  
And he ? No doubt he loved her, too,

After a kingly fashion—knew  
She had a right his throne to share,  
And would be mother of his heir.  
But yet, to do him justice, he  
Sometimes forgot his royalty,—  
Forgot his kingly crown, and then  
Loved, and made love, like other men !

There seemed no shadow near the throne ;  
Yet oft the great king walked alone,  
Hands clasped behind him, head bowed down,  
And on his royal face a frown.  
Sat Mordecai within his gate ?  
What scoffing specter mocked his state ?  
What demon held him in a spell ?  
Alas ! the sweet queen knew too well !  
Apples of Sodom ate he, since  
She had not borne to him a prince,  
Though thrice his hope had budded fair,  
And he had counted on an heir.  
Three little daughters, dainty girls  
With sunshine tangled in their curls,

Bloomed in the palace ; but no son—  
The long-expected, waited one,  
Flower of the state, and pride of all—  
Grew at the king's side, straight and tall !

The king was angered. It may be  
No worse than other men was he ;  
But—a high tower upon a hill—  
His light shone far for good or ill !  
In from the chase one day he rode ;  
To the queen's chamber fierce he strode ;  
Where, bending o'er her 'broidery frame,  
Her pale cheeks burned with sudden flame  
At his quick coming. Up she rose,  
Stirred from her wonted calm repose,  
A lily flushing when the sun  
Its stately beauty looked upon !  
Alas ! alas ! so blind was he,  
Or else he did not care to see—  
He had no pity, though she stood  
In perfect flower of womanhood !  
“ You bear to me no son,” he said ;

Then flinging back his haughty head :  
“ Each base-born peasant has an heir,  
His name to keep, his crust to share,  
While I—the king of this broad land—  
Have no son near my throne to stand !  
Who, then, shall reign when I am dead ?  
Who wield the scepter in my stead ?  
Inherit all my pride and power,  
And wear my glory as his dower ?  
Give me a man-child, who shall be  
Lord of the realm, himself, and me ! ”

Then pallid lips made slow reply,—  
“ God ordereth. Not you nor I ! ”

His brow flushed hot ; a sudden clang  
As of arms throughout the chamber rang,  
And turning on his heel, he threw  
Back wrathful answer : “ That may do  
For puling women—not for me !  
Now, by my good sword, we shall see !  
So help me Heaven, I will not brook

On a girl's face again to look !  
And when you next shall bear a child,  
Though fair a babe as ever smiled,  
If it be not a princely heir,  
By all the immortal gods, I swear  
I ne'er will speak to it, nor break  
My soul's stern silence for Love's sake ! "

Then forth he fared and rode away,  
Nor saw the queen again that day :—  
The hapless queen, who to the floor  
Sank prone and breathless, as the door  
Swung to behind him, and his tread  
Down the long arches echoèd.  
In truth she was in sorry plight  
When her maids found her late that night,  
The king learned that which spoiled his rest,  
But kept the secret in his breast !

\* \* \* \* \*

At length, when months had duly sped,  
High streamed the banners overhead,  
And all the bells rang out at morn

In jubilant peals—a Prince was born!  
Now let the joyous music ring!  
Now let the merry minstrels sing!  
Now pour the wine and crown the feast  
With fruits and flowers of all the East!  
Now let the votive candles shine  
And garlands bloom on every shrine!  
Now let the young, with flying feet  
Time to bewildering music beat,  
And let the old their joys rehearse  
In stirring tale, or flowing verse!  
Now fill with shouts the waiting air,  
And scatter largess everywhere!

Ah! who so happy as the king?  
Swift flew the hours on eager wing;  
And the boy grew apace, until  
The second summer, sweet and still,  
Dropped roses round him as he played  
Where arched the leafy colonnade.  
How fair he was tongue cannot say,  
But he was fairer than the day!

And never princely coronet  
On brow of nobler mold was set;  
Nor ever did its jewels gleam  
Above an eye of brighter beam !  
And never yet where sunshine falls,  
Flooding with light the cottage walls,  
'Mid hum of bee, or song of birds,  
Or tenderest breath of loving words,  
Blossomed a sweeter child than he !  
How the king joyed his strength to see,  
Counting the weeks that flew so fast—  
Each fuller, happier than the last !  
Six months had passed since he could walk ;  
Was it not time the prince should talk ?  
Ah ! baby words with tripping feet !  
Ah ! baby laughter, silver sweet !

At length within the palace rose  
Rumor so strange that friends and foes  
Forgot their love, forgot their hate,  
Pausing to croon and speculate.  
Vague whispers floated in the air ;

A hint of mystery here and there ;  
A sudden hush, a startled glance,  
Quick silences and looks askance.  
Thus day by day the wonder grew,  
Till o'er the kingdom wide it flew.  
The prince—his father—what was this  
Strange tale so surely told amiss ?  
The young prince dumb ? Who dared to say  
That nature such a prank could play ?  
*Dumb to the king ?* In silence bound,  
With voiceless lips that gave no sound  
When the king questioned ?—Yet no lute,  
Nor chiming bell, nor silver flute,  
Nor lark's song, high in ether hung,  
Rang clearer than the prince's tongue !

The court physicians came and went ;  
Learned men from all the continent  
Gave wise opinions, talked of laws,  
Stroked their gray beards, nor found the cause.  
Then bribes were tried, and threats. The child,  
As one bewildered, sighed and smiled,

In a wild storm of weeping broke,  
Moved its red lips, but never spoke.

The changeful years rolled on apace ;  
The young prince wore a bearded face ;  
The good queen died ; the king grew gray ;  
A generation passed away.  
Courtiers forgot to tell the tale ;  
Gossip itself grew old and stale.  
But never once, in all the years  
That bore such freight of joys and tears,  
Was the spell broken : not one word  
From son to sire was ever heard.  
Mutely his father's face he scanned—  
Mutely he clasped his aged hand—  
Mutely he kissed him when at last  
To death's long slumber forth he passed !  
Come weal or woe, he could not break  
The mystic silence for Love's sake !

## IN MEMORIAM.

[Cyrus M. and Mary Ripley Fisher, lost on Steamship Atlantic,  
April 1st, 1873.]

ONCE, long ago, with trembling lips I sung  
Of one who, when the earliest flowers were seen,  
So sweet, so dear, so beautiful and young,  
Came home to sleep where kindred graves were  
green.

Soft was the turf we raised to give her room ;  
Clear were the rain-drops, shining as they fell ;  
Sweet the arbutus, with its tender bloom  
Brightening the couch of her who loved it well.

Yet, in our blindness, how we wept that day,  
When the earth fell upon her coffin-lid !  
O, ye beloved whom I sing *this* day,  
Could we but know where your dear forms lie hid !

Could we but lay you down by her dear side,  
Wrapped in the garments of eternal rest,  
Where the still hours in slow succession glide,  
And not a dream may stir the pulseless breast—

Where all day long the shadows come and go,  
And soft winds murmur and sweet song-birds sing—  
Where all night long the star-light's tender glow  
Falls where the flowers you loved are blossoming—

Then should the tempest of our grief grow calm;  
Then moaning gales should vex our souls no more;  
And the clear swelling of our thankful psalm  
Should drown the beat of surges on the shore.

But the deep sea will not give up its dead.  
O, ye who know where your beloved sleep,  
Bid heart's-ease bloom on each love-guarded bed,  
And bless your God for graves whereon to weep!

## WEAVING THE WEB.

“THIS morn I will weave my web,” she said,  
As she stood by her loom in the rosy light,  
And her young eyes, hopefully glad and clear,  
Followed afar the swallow’s flight.

“As soon as the day’s first tasks are done,  
While yet I am fresh and strong,” said she,  
“I will hasten to weave the beautiful web  
Whose pattern is known to none but me !

“I will weave it fine, I will weave it fair,  
And ah ! how the colors will glow !” she said ;  
“So fadeless and strong will I weave my web  
That perhaps it will live after I am dead.”  
But the morning hours sped on apace ;  
The air grew sweet with the breath of June ;  
And young Love hid by the waiting loom,  
Tangling the threads as he hummed a tune.

“Ah, life is so rich and full !” she cried,  
“And morn is short though the days are long !  
This noon I will weave my beautiful web,  
I will weave it carefully, fine and strong.”  
But the sun rode high in the cloudless sky ;  
The burden and heat of the day she bore  
And hither and thither she came and went,  
While the loom stood still as it stood before.

“Ah ! life is too busy at noon,” she said ;  
“My web must wait till the eventide,  
Till the common work of the day is done,  
And my heart grows calm in the silence wide.”  
So, one by one, the hours passed on  
Till the creeping shadows had longer grown ;  
Till the house was still, and the breezes slept,  
And her singing birds to their nests had flown.

“And now I will weave my web,” she said,  
As she turned to her loom ere set of sun,  
And laid her hand on the shining threads  
To set them in order one by one.

But hand was tired, and heart was weak :

“ I am not as strong as I was,” sighed she,  
“ And the pattern is blurred, and the colors rare  
Are not so bright, or so fair to see!

“ I must wait, I think, till another morn ;  
I must go to my rest with my work undone ;  
It is growing too dark to weave ! ” she cried,  
As lower and lower sank the sun.  
She dropped the shuttle ; the loom stood still ;  
The weaver slept in the twilight gray.  
Dear heart ! Will she weave her beautiful web  
In the golden light of a longer day ?

## RABBI BENAIAH.

RABBI BENAIAH at the close of day,  
When the low sun athwart the level sands  
Shot his long arrows, from far Eastern lands  
Homeward across the desert bent his way.

Behind him trailed the lengthening caravan,—  
The slow, weird camels, with monotonous pace ;  
Before him, lifted in the clear, far space,  
From east to west the towers of his city ran !

Impatiently he scanned the darkening sky ;  
Then girding in hot haste, “ What ho ! ” cried he,  
“ Bring the swift steed Abdallah unto me !  
As rode his Bedouin master, so will I ! ”

Soon like a bird across the waste he flew,  
Nor drew his rein till at the massive gate

That guards the citadel's supremest state  
He paused a moment, slowly entering through.

Then down the shadowy, moonlit streets he sped ;  
The city slept ; but like a burning star,  
Where his own turret-chamber rose afar,  
A clear, strong light its steady radiance shed !

Into his court he rode with sudden clang.  
The startled slaves bowed low, but spake no word ;  
By no quick tumult was the midnight stirred,  
No shouts of welcome on the night air rang !

But with slow footsteps down the turret-stairs,  
With trembling lips that did but breathe his name,  
And sad, averted eyes, his fair wife came,—  
The lady Judith,—wan with tears and prayers.

Then swift he cried out, less in wrath than fear,  
“ Now, by my beard ! is this the way ye keep  
My welcome home ? Go wake my sons from sleep,  
And let their glad tongues break the silence here ! ”

“ Not so, my dear lord ! Let them rest,” she said.  
“ Young eyes need slumber. But come thou with  
me.

I have a trouble to make known to thee  
Ere I before thee can lift up my head.”

Into an inner chamber led she him,  
And with her own hands brought him meat and  
wine,  
A purple robe, and linen pure and fine.  
He half forgot that her sweet eyes were dim !

“ Now for thy trouble ! ” cried he, laughing loud.  
“ Hast torn thy kirtle ? Are thy pearls astray ?  
What ! Tears ? My camels o'er yon desert way  
Bring treasures that had made Queen Esther  
proud ! ”

Slowly she spake, nor in his face looked she.  
“ My lord, long years ago a friend of mine  
Left with me jewels, costly, rare, and fine,  
Bidding me guard them carefully till he

“ Again should call for them. The other day  
He sent his messenger. But I have learned  
To hold them as my own ! Have I not earned  
A right to keep them ? Speak, my lord, I pray ! ”

“ Strange sense of honor hath a woman’s heart ! ”  
The rabbi answered hotly. “ Now, good lack !  
Where are the jewels ? I will send them back  
Ere yet the sun upon his course may start ! ”

“ Show me the jewels ! ” Up she rose as white  
As any ghost, and mutely led the way  
Into the turret-chamber whence the ray  
Seen from afar had blessed the rabbi’s sight.

And with slow, trembling hands she drew aside  
The silken curtain from before the bed  
Whereon, in snowy calm, their boys lay dead.  
“ There are the jewels, O, my lord ! ” she cried.

## A CHILD'S THOUGHT.

SOFTLY fell the twilight;  
    In the glowing west  
Purple splendors faded;  
    Birds had gone to rest;  
All the winds were sleeping;  
    One lone whip-poor-will  
Made the silence deeper,  
    Calling from the hill.

Little Fred,—the darling,—  
    On his mother's knee,  
In the gathering darkness,  
    Still as still could be,  
Watched the deepening shadows;  
    Saw the stars come out;  
Saw the weird bats flitting  
    Stealthily about;

Saw across the river  
How the furnace glow,  
Like a fiery pennant,  
Wavered to and fro :  
Saw the tall trees standing  
Black against the sky,  
And the moon's pale crescent  
Swinging far and high.

Deeper grew the darkness ;  
Darker grew his eyes  
As he gazed around him,  
In a still surprise.  
Then he listened, listened !  
“ What is this I hear  
All the time, dear mamma,  
Sounding in my ear ? ”

“ I hear nothing,” said she,  
“ All the earth is still.”  
But he listened, listened,  
With an eager will,

Till at length a quick smile  
O'er the child-face broke,  
And a kindling luster  
In his dark eyes woke.

“ Now I know, dear mamma !  
I can hear the sound  
Of the wheels, the great wheels  
That move the world around ! ”  
Oh, ears earth has dulled not !  
In your purer sphere,  
Strains from ours withholden  
Are you wise to hear ?

“ GOD KNOWS.”

OH! wild and dark was the winter night  
When the emigrant ship went down,  
But just outside of the harbor bar,  
In the sight of the startled town.  
The winds howled, and the sea roared,  
And never a soul could sleep,  
Save the little ones on their mothers' breasts,  
Too young to watch and weep.

No boat could live in the angry surf,  
No rope could reach the land:  
There were bold, brave hearts upon the shore,  
There was many a ready hand,—

Women who prayed, and men who strove  
When prayers and work were vain ;  
For the sun rose over the awful void  
And the silence of the main.

All day the watchers paced the sands,  
All day they scanned the deep,  
All night the booming minute-guns  
Echoed from steep to steep.  
"Give up thy dead, O cruel sea!"  
They cried athwart the space ;  
But only a baby's fragile form  
Escaped from its stern embrace.

Only one little child of all  
Who with the ship went down  
That night when the happy babies slept  
So warm in the sheltered town.  
Wrapped in the glow of the morning light,  
It lay on the shifting sand,  
As fair as a sculptor's marble dream,  
With a shell in its dimpled hand.

There were none to tell of its race or kin.  
“ God knoweth,” the pastor said,  
When the sobbing children crowded to ask  
    The name of the baby dead.  
And so, when they laid it away at last  
    In the church-yard’s hushed repose,  
They raised a stone at the baby’s head,  
    With the carven words, “ God knows.”

## UNSOLVED.

"T is the old unanswered question ! Since the stars  
    together sung  
In the glory of the morning, when the earth was  
    fair and young,

Man hath asked it o'er and over, of the heavens so-  
    far and high,  
And from out the mystic silence never voice hath  
    made reply !

Yet again to-night I ask it, though I know, O friend  
    of mine,  
There will come, to all my asking, never answering  
    voice of thine.

Ah ! how many times the grasses have grown green  
    above thy grave,

And how many times above it have we heard the  
cold winds rave !

Thou hast solved the eternal problem that the ages  
hold in fee ;

Thou dost know what we but dream of ; where we  
marvel, thou dost see.

What is truth, and what is fable ; what the prophets  
saw who trod

In their rapt, ecstatic visions up the holy mount of  
God !

Not of these high themes I question—but O friend,  
I fain would know

How beyond the silent river all the long years come  
and go !

Where they are, our well-belovèd, who have vanished  
from our sight,

As the stars fade out of heaven at the dawning of  
the light ;

How they live and how they love there, in the  
“somewhere” of our dreams;  
In the “city lying four-square” by the everlasting  
streams!

Oh, the mystery of being! Which is better, life or  
death?

Thou hast tried them both, O comrade, yet thy  
voice ne'er answereth!

Hast thou grown as grow the angels? Doth thy  
spirit still aspire

As the flame that soareth upward, mounting higher  
still, and higher?

In the flush of early manhood all thy earthly days  
were done;

Short thy struggle and endeavor ere the peace of  
heaven was won.

But for us who stayed behind thee—oh! our hands  
are dark with toil,

And upon our souls, it may be, are the stains of earthly moil.

Hast thou kept the lofty beauty and the glory of thy youth?

Dost thou see our temples whitening, smiling softly in thy ruth?

But for us—we bear the burdens that you dropped so long ago,

And the cares you have forgotten, and the pains you missed, we know.

Yet—the question still remaineth! Which is better, death or life?

The not doing, or the doing? Joy of calm, or joy of strife?

Which is better—to be saved from temptation and from sin,

Or to wrestle with the dragon and the glorious fight to win?

Ah! we know not, but God knoweth! All resolves  
itself to this,—

That He gave to us the warfare, and to thee the  
heavenly bliss.

It was best for thee to go hence in the morning of  
the day;

Till the evening shadows lengthen it is best for us  
to stay!

## FIVE.

“BUT a week is so long!” he said,  
With a toss of his curly head.  
“One, two, three, four, five, six, seven!—  
Seven whole days! Why, in six you know  
(You said it yourself—you told me so)  
The great GOD up in heaven  
Made all the earth and the seas and skies,  
The trees and the birds and the butterflies!  
How can I wait for my seeds to grow?”

“But a month is so long!” he said,  
With a droop of his boyish head.  
“Hear me count—one, two, three, four—  
Four whole weeks, and three days more;  
Thirty-one days, and each will creep  
As the shadows crawl over yonder steep.  
Thirty-one nights, and I shall lie

Watching the stars climb up the sky !  
How can I wait till a month is o'er ? ”

“ But a year is so long ! ” he said,  
Uplifting his bright young head.  
“ All the seasons must come and go  
Over the hills with footsteps slow—  
Autumn and Winter, Summer and Spring ;  
Oh, for a bridge of gold to fling  
Over the chasm deep and wide,  
That I might cross to the other side,  
Where she is waiting—my love, my bride ! ”

“ Ten years may be long,” he said,  
Slow raising his stately head,  
“ But there 's much to win, there is much to lose ;  
A man must labor, a man must choose,  
And he must be strong to wait !  
The years may be long, but who would wear  
The crown of honor, must do and dare !  
No time has he to toy with fate  
Who would climb to manhood's high estate ! ”

“ Ah ! life is not long ! ” he said,  
Bowing his grand white head.  
“ One, two, three, four, five, six, seven !  
Seven times ten are seventy.  
Seventy years ! as swift their flight  
As swallows cleaving the morning light,  
Or golden gleams at even.  
Life is short as a summer night—  
How long, O God ! is eternity ? ”

## QUIETNESS.

I WOULD be quiet, Lord,  
Nor tease, nor fret;  
Not one small need of mine  
Wilt Thou forget.

I am not wise to know  
What most I need;  
I dare not cry too loud  
Lest Thou shouldst heed:

Lest Thou at length shouldst say,  
“ Child, have thy will ;  
As thou hast chosen, lo !  
Thy cup I fill ! ”

What I most crave, perchance  
Thou wilt withhold,

As we from hands unmeet  
Keep pearls, or gold ;

As we, when childish hands  
Would play with fire,  
Withhold the burning goal  
Of their desire.

Yet choose Thou for me—Thou  
Who knowest best ;  
This one short prayer of mine  
Holds all the rest !

## WINTER.

O my roses, lying underneath the snow !  
Do you still remember summer's warmth and glow ?  
Do you thrill, remembering how your blushes burned  
When the Day-god on you ardent glances turned ?

Great tree, wildly stretching bare arms up to heaven,  
Do you think how softly, on some warm June even,  
All your young leaves whispered, all your birds sang  
low,  
As with rhythmic motion boughs swayed to and fro ?

River, lying whitely in a frozen sleep,  
Know you how your pulses used to throb and leap ?  
How you danced and sparkled on your happy way,  
In the summer mornings when the world was gay ?

Dear Earth, dumbly waiting God's appointed time,  
Are you faint with longing for the voice sublime ?  
Wrapped in stony silence, does your great heart beat,  
Listening in the darkness for the coming of His feet ?

## THE “CHRISTUS” OF THE PASSION PLAY OF OBERAMMERGAU.

How does life seem to thee? I long to look  
Into thine inmost soul, and see if thou  
Art even as other men! Oh, set apart  
And consecrate so long to purpose high,  
Canst thou take up again our common lot,  
And live as we live? Canst thou buy and sell,  
Stoop to small needs, and petty ministries,  
Work and get gain, eat, drink, and soundly sleep,  
Sin and repent, as these thy brethren do?  
Unto what name less sacred answerest thou  
Who hast been called the Christ of Nazareth?  
Thou who hast worn the awful crown of thorns,  
Hanging like Him upon the dreadful Tree,  
Canst thou, uncrowned, forget thy royalty?

## THE MOUNTAIN ROAD.

ONLY a glimpse of mountain road  
That followed where a river flowed;  
Only a glimpse—then on we passed  
Skirting the forest dim and vast

I closed my eyes. On rushed the train  
Into the dark, then out again,  
Startling the song-birds as it flew  
The wild ravines and gorges through.

But, heeding not the dangerous way  
O'erhung by sheer cliffs, rough and gray,  
I only saw, as in a dream,  
The road beside the mountain stream.

No smoke curled upward in the air,  
No meadow-lands stretched broad and fair;

But towering peaks rose far and high,  
Piercing the clear, untroubled sky.

Yet down the yellow, winding road  
That followed where the river flowed,  
I saw a long procession pass  
As shadows over bending grass.

The young, the old, the sad, the gay,  
Whose feet had worn that narrow way,  
Since first within the dusky glade  
Some Indian lover wooed his maid ;

Or silent crept from tree to tree—  
Spirit of stealthy vengeance, he !  
Or breathless crouched while through the brake  
The wild deer stole his thirst to slake.

The barefoot school-boys rushing out  
An eager, crowding, roisterous rout ;  
The sturdy lads ; the lassies gay  
As bobolinks in merry May ;

The farmer whistling to his team  
When first the dawn begins to gleam ;  
The loaded wains that one by one  
Drag slowly home at set of sun ;

Young lovers straying hand in hand  
Within a fair, enchanted land ;  
And many a bride with lingering feet ;  
And many a matron calm and sweet ;

And many an old man bent with pain ;  
And many a solemn funeral train ;  
And sometimes, red against the sky,  
An army's banners waving high !

All mysteries of life and death  
To which the spirit answereth,  
Are thine, O lonely mountain road,  
That followed where the river flowed !

## ENTERING IN.

THE church was dim and silent  
With the hush before the prayer,  
Only the solemn trembling  
Of the organ stirred the air ;  
Without, the sweet, still sunshine ;  
Within, the holy calm  
Where priest and people waited  
For the swelling of the psalm.

Slowly the door swung open,  
And a little baby girl,  
Brown-eyed, with brown hair falling  
In many a wavy curl,

With soft cheeks flushing hotly,  
Shy glances downward thrown,  
And small hands clasped before her,  
Stood in the aisle alone.

Stood half abashed, half frightened  
Unknowing where to go,  
While like a wind-rocked flower,  
Her form swayed to and fro,  
And the changing color fluttered  
In the little troubled face,  
As from side to side she wavered  
With a mute, imploring grace.

It was but for a moment;  
What wonder that we smiled,  
By such a strange, sweet picture  
From holy thoughts beguiled?  
Then up rose some one softly;  
And many an eye grew dim,  
As through the tender silence  
He bore the child with him.

And I—I wondered (losing  
The sermon and the prayer)  
If when sometime I enter  
The “many mansions” fair,  
And stand, abashed and drooping,  
In the portal’s golden glow,  
Our God will send an angel  
To show me where to go !

## THE DIFFERENCE.

ONLY a week ago and thou wert here !

I touched thy hand, I saw thy dear, dark eyes,  
I kissed thy tender lips, I felt thee near,  
I spake, and listened to thy low replies.

To-day what leagues between us ! Hill and vale,

The rolling prairies and the mighty seas ;  
Gray forest reaches where the wild winds wail,  
And mountain crests uplifted to the breeze !

So far thou art, who wert of late so near !

The stars we watched have changed not in the  
skies ;  
Still do thy hyacinth bells their beauty wear,  
Yet half a continent between us lies !

But swift as thought along the “singing wires”  
There flies a message like a bright-winged bird—  
“All ’s well! All ’s well!” and ne’er from wood-  
land choirs  
By gladder music hath the air been stirred!

\* \* \* \* \*

But thou, O thou, who but a week ago,  
Passed calmly out beyond our yearning gaze,  
As some grand ship all solemnly and slow  
Sails out of sight beyond the gathering haze—

Oh, where art *thou*? In what far distant realm,  
What star in yon resplendent fields of light,  
On what fair isle that no rude seas may whelm,  
Dost thou, O brother, find thy home to-night?

Or art thou near us? There are those who say  
That but a breath divides our world from  
thine;  
A little cloud that may be blown away—  
A gossamer veil than spider’s web more fine.

Dost thou, a shadowy presence, linger near  
Thine own loved haunts, the paths thou wert  
wont to tread,  
Where woods were still, and shining brooks ran  
clear,  
And waving boughs arched greenly overhead?

Oh! be thou far or near, it is the same!  
From thee there floats no message thro' the air;  
No glad "All 's well" comes to us in thy name  
That we the joy of thy new life may share!

## THOU KNOWEST.

THOU knowest, O my Father! Why should I  
Weary high heaven with restless prayers and tears?  
Thou knowest all! My heart's unuttered cry  
Hath soared beyond the stars and reached Thine  
ears.

Thou knowest—ah, Thou knowest! Then what need,  
O, loving God, to tell Thee o'er and o'er,  
And with persistent iteration plead  
As one who crieth at some closèd door?

“Tease not!” we mothers to our children say,—  
“Our wiser love will grant whate'er is best.”  
Shall we, Thy children, run to Thee alway,  
Begging for this and that in wild unrest?

I dare not clamor at the heavenly gate,  
Lest I should lose the high, sweet strains within;  
O, Love Divine! I can but stand and wait  
Till Perfect Wisdom bids me enter in!

## A FLOWER FOR THE DEAD.

You placed this flower in her hand, you say ?  
This pure, pale rose in her hand of clay ?  
Methinks could she lift her sealèd eyes  
They would meet your own with a grieved surprise !

She has been your wife for many a year,  
When clouds hung low and when skies were clear ;  
At your feet she laid her life's glad spring,  
And her summer's glorious blossoming.

Her whole heart went with the hand you won ;  
If its warm love waned as the years went on,  
If it chilled in the grasp of an icy spell,  
What was the reason ? I pray you tell !

You cannot ? I can ; and beside her bier  
My soul must speak and your soul must hear.

If she was not all that she might have been,  
Hers was the sorrow, yours the sin.

Whose was the fault if she did not grow  
Like a rose in the summer? Do you know?  
Does a lily grow when its leaves are chilled?  
Does it bloom when its root is winter-killed?

For a little while, when you first were wed,  
Your love was like sunshine round her shed;  
Then a something crept between you two,  
You led where she could not follow you.

With a man's firm tread you went and came;  
You lived for wealth, for power, for fame;  
Shut in to her woman's work and ways,  
She heard the nation chant your praise.

But ah! you had dropped her hand the while;  
What time had you for a kiss, a smile?  
You two, with the same roof overhead,  
Were as far apart as the sundered dead!

You, in your manhood's strength and prime ;  
She, worn and faded before her time.

'T is a common story. This rose, you say,  
You laid in her pallid hand to-day ?

When did you give her a flower before ?  
Ah, well!—What matter when all is o'er ?  
Yet stay a moment ; you 'll wed again.  
I mean no reproach ; 't is the way of men.

But I pray you think when some fairer face  
Shines like a star from her wonted place,  
That love will starve if it is not fed ;  
That true hearts pray for their daily bread.

### A RED ROSE.

O Rose, my red, red Rose,  
Where has thy beauty fled?  
Low in the west is a sea of fire,  
But the great white moon soars high and higher,  
As my garden walks I tread.

Thy white rose-sisters gleam  
Like stars in the darkening sky;  
They bend their brows with a sudden thrill  
To the kiss of the night-dews soft and still,  
When the warm south wind floats by.

And the stately lilies stand  
Fair in the silvery light,  
Like saintly vestals, pale in prayer;  
Their pure breath sanctifies the air,  
As its fragrance fills the night.

But O, my red, red Rose !

My Rose with the crimson lips !

So bright thou wert in the sunny morn,

- Yet now thou art hiding all forlorn,

And thy soul is in drear eclipse !

Dost thou mourn thy lover dead—

Thy lover, the lordly Sun ?

Didst thou see him sink in the glowing west ?

With pomp of banners above his rest ?

He shall rise again, sweet one !

He shall rise with his eye of fire—

And thy passionate heart shall beat,

And thy radiant blushes burn again,

With the joy of rapture after pain

At the coming of his feet !

## MY BIRTHDAY.

My birthday!—“How many years ago?  
Twenty or thirty?” Don’t ask me!  
“Forty or fifty?”—How can I tell?  
I do not remember my birth, you see!

It is hearsay evidence—nothing more!  
Once on a time, the legends say,  
A girl was born—and that girl was I.  
How can I vouch for the truth, I pray?

I know I am here, but when I came  
Let some one wiser than I am tell!  
Did this sweet flower you plucked for me  
Know when its bud began to swell?

How old am I? You ought to know  
Without any telling of mine, my dear!

For when I came to this happy earth  
Were you not waiting for me here?

A dark-eyed boy on the northern hills,  
Chasing the hours with flying feet,  
Did you not know your wife was born,  
By a subtle prescience, faint yet sweet?

Did never a breath from the south-land come  
With sunshine laden and rare perfume  
To lift your hair with a soft caress,  
And waken your heart to richer bloom?

Not one? O mystery strange as life!—  
To think that we who are now so dear  
Were once in our dreams so far apart,  
Nor cared if the other were far or near!

But—how old am I? You must tell.  
Just as old as I seem to you!  
Nor shall I a day older be  
While life remaineth and love is true!

## TWENTY-ONE.

GROWN to man's stature ! O my little child !  
My bird that sought the skies so long ago !  
My fair, sweet blossom, pure and undefiled,  
How have the years flown since we laid thee low !

What have they been to thee ? If thou wert here  
Standing beside thy brothers, tall and fair,  
With bearded lip, and dark eyes shining clear,  
And glints of summer sunshine in thy hair,

I should look up into thy face and say,  
Wavering, perhaps, between a tear and smile,  
“ O my sweet son, thou art a man to-day ! ”—  
And thou wouldest stoop to kiss my lips the while.

But—up in heaven—how is it with thee, dear ?  
Art thou a man—to man's full stature grown ?

Dost thou count time as we do, year by year?  
And what of all earth's changes hast thou known?

Thou hadst not learned to love me. Didst thou take  
Any small germ of love to heaven with thee,  
That thou hast watched and nurtured for my sake,  
Waiting till I its perfect flower may see?

What is it to have lived in heaven always?  
To have no memory of pain or sin?  
Ne'er to have known in all the calm, bright days,  
The jar and fret of earth's discordant din?

Thy brothers—they are mortal—they must tread  
Ofttimes in rough, hard ways, with bleeding feet;  
Must fight with dragons, must bewail their dead,  
And fierce Apollyon face to face must meet.

I, who would give my very life for theirs,  
I cannot save them from earth's pain or loss;  
I cannot shield them from its griefs or cares;  
Each human heart must bear alone its cross!

Was God, then, kinder unto thee than them,  
O thou whose little life was but a span ?  
Ah, think it not ! In all his diadem  
No star shines brighter than the kingly man,

Who nobly earns whatever crown he wears,  
Who grandly conquers, or as grandly dies ;  
And the white banner of his manhood bears,  
Through all the years uplifted to the skies !

What lofty pæans shall the victor greet !  
What crown resplendent for his brow be fit !  
O child, if earthly life be bitter-sweet,  
Hast thou not something missed in missing it ?

THOMAS MOORE.

MAY 28, 1779-1879.

HUSH!—O be ye silent, all ye birds of May!  
Cease the high, clear trilling of your roundelay  
Be the merry minstrels mute in vale, on hill,  
And in every tree-top let the song be still!

O ye winds, breathe softly! Let your voices die  
In a low, faint whisper, sweet as love's first sigh;  
O ye zephyrs, blowing over beds of flowers,  
Be ye still as dews are in the starry hours!

O ye laughing waters, leaping here and there,  
Filling with sweet clamor all the summer air,  
Can ye not be quiet? Hush, ye mountain streams,  
Dancing to glad music from the world of dreams!

And thou, mighty ocean, beating on the shore,  
Bid thy angry billows stay their thunderous roar !  
O ye waves, lapse softly, in such slumberous calm  
As ye know when circling isles of crested palm !

Bells in tower and steeple, be ye mute to-day  
As the bell-flowers rocking in the winds of May !  
Cease awhile, ye minstrels, though your notes be  
clear  
As the strains that soar in heaven's high atmosphere !

Earth, bid all thy children hearken,—for a voice,  
Sweeter than a seraph's, bids their hearts rejoice ;  
Floating down the silence of a hundred years,  
Lo ! its deathless music thrills our listening ears !

"T is the one our fathers loved so long ago,  
The same songs it taught them warbling clear and  
low ;—  
Hark, " Ye Disconsolate ! " while the voice so pure  
Sings—" Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot  
cure ! "

Sings of love's wild rapture triumphing o'er pain,  
Glorying in giving, counting loss but gain ;  
Sings the warrior's passion and the patriot's pride.  
And the brave, unshrinking, who for glory died ;—

Sings of Erin smiling through a mist of tears ;  
Of her patient waiting all the weary years ;  
Sings the pain of parting, and the joy divine  
When the bliss of meeting stirs the heart like wine ;—

Sings of memories waking in “ the stilly night ” ;  
Of the “ young dreams ” fading in the morning light ;  
Of the “ rose of summer ” perishing too soon ;  
Of the early splendors waning ere the noon !

O thou tender singer ! All the air to-day  
Trembles with the burden of thy “ farewell ” lay ;  
Crowns and thrones may crumble, into darkness  
hurled,  
Yet is song immortal ; song shall rule the world !

## SINGING IN THE DARK.

O YE little warblers, flying fast and far  
From the balmy south-land, where the roses are,  
Robins red and blue-birds, do ye faint to see  
How the chill snow-blossoms whiten shrub and tree?

Through the snowy valley cold the north winds  
sweep;  
Mother Earth, half-wakened, turns again to sleep;  
Silent lies the river in an icy trance,  
And the frozen meadows wait the sun's hot glance.

Dull and gray the skies are. Soft and blue were  
those  
That so late above you bent at daylight's close;  
Do ye grieve, remembering all the balm and bloom,  
All the warmth and sweetness of the starlit gloom?

Do ye sadly wonder what strange impulse drew  
All your flashing pinions the far ether through?  
Do ye count it madness that so wide ye strayed  
From the starry jasmine and the orange shade?

Yet this morn I heard ye singing in the dark,  
Songs of such rare sweetness that the world might  
hark!

O ye blessed minstrels, silent not for pain,  
God is in the heavens, and your sun shall shine  
again!

## TWO SONNETS.

### I.

WHEN I awake at morn, refreshed, renewed,  
Glad with the gladness of the jocund day  
And jubilant with all the birds of May,  
My spirit shrinks from Night's dull quietude.  
With it and Sleep I have a deadly feud.  
  
I hear the young winds in the maples play,  
The river singing on its happy way,  
The swallows twittering to their callow brood.  
The fresh, fair earth is full of joyous life;  
The tree-tops toss in billowy unrest;  
The very mountain shadows are astir!  
With eager heart I thrill to join the strife;  
Doing, not dreaming, to my soul seems best,  
And I am lordly Day's true worshiper!

## II.

BUT when with Day's long weariness oppressed,  
With folded hands I watch the sun go down,  
Lighting far, torches in the steepled town,  
And kindling all the glowing, reddening west ;  
When every sleepy bird has sought its nest ;  
When the long shadows from the hills are thrown,  
And Night's soft airs about the world are blown,  
Thou heart of mine, how sweet it is to rest !  
O, Israfil ! Thou of the tuneful voice !  
It will be night-fall when thy voice I hear,  
Summoning me to slumber soft and low !  
Day will be done. Then will I not rejoice  
That all my tasks are o'er and rest is near,  
And, like a tired child, be glad to go ?

## TO ZÜLMA.

### I.

SOMETIMES my heart grows faint with longing, dear,—

Longing to see thy face, to touch thy hand.

But mountains rise between us; leagues of land  
Stretch on and on where mighty lakes lie clear  
In the far spaces, and great forests rear

Their somber crowns on many a lonely strand !

Yet, O my fair child, canst thou understand,  
Thou whose dear place was once beside me here,  
How yet I dare not pray that thou and I  
Again may dwell together as of old ?

There is a gate between us, locked and barred,  
Over which we may not climb, and standing nigh  
Is the white angel Sorrow, who doth hold  
The only key that may unlock its ward !

## II.

YET think not I would have it otherwise !

Our God, who knoweth women's hearts, knows  
best —

And every little bird must build its nest  
From whence it soareth, singing, to the skies.

What though the one that thou hast builded lies

Where sinks the sun to its enchanted rest,  
If, on each breeze that bloweth east or west,  
To thee, on swiftest wing, my spirit flies ?

We are not far apart, and ne'er shall be !

For Love, like God, knoweth not time, nor space,

And it is freer than the viewless air ;  
And well I know, belovèd, that if we  
Trod different planets in yon starry space  
We should reach out, and find each other there !

## MERCÉDÈS.

(JUNE 27th, 1878.)

O FAIR young queen, who liest dead to-day  
In thy proud palace o'er the moaning sea,  
With still, white hands that never more may be  
Lifted to pluck life's roses bright with May—  
Little is it to you that, far away,  
Where skies you knew not bend above the free,  
Hearts touched with tender pity turn to thee,  
And for thy sake a shadow dims the day !  
But youth and love and womanhood are one,  
Though across sundering seas their signals fly ;  
Young Love's pure kiss, the joy but just begun,  
The hope of motherhood, thy people's cry—  
O thou fair child ! was it not hard to die  
And leave so much beneath the summer sun ?

## SLEEP.

WHO calls thee “gentle Sleep ?”—O ! rare coquette,  
Who comest crowned with poppies, thou shouldst  
wear  
    Nettles instead, or thistles, in thy hair ;  
For thou ’rt the veriest elf that ever yet  
Made weary mortals sigh and toss and fret !  
    Thou dost float softly through the drowsy air  
    Hovering as if to kiss my lips and share  
My restless pillow ; but ere I can set  
    My arms to clasp thee, without sign or speech,  
    Save one swift, mocking smile thou ’rt out of  
reach !  
Yet, sometime, thou, or one as like to thee  
    As sister is to sister, shalt draw near  
    With such soft lullabies for my dull ear,  
That neither life nor love shall waken me !

## TO-DAY.

WHAT dost thou bring to me, O fair To-day,  
That comest o'er the mountains with swift feet ?  
All the young birds make haste thy steps to greet  
And all the dewy roses of the May  
Turn red and white with joy. The breezes play  
On their soft harps a welcome low and sweet ;  
All nature hails thee, glad thy face to meet,  
And owns thy presence in a brighter ray.  
But my poor soul distrusts thee ! One as fair  
As thou art, O To-day, drew near to me,  
Serene and smiling, yet she bade me wear  
The sudden sackcloth of a great despair !  
O, pitiless ! that through the wandering air  
Sent no kind warning of the ill to be !

## GRASS-GROWN.

GRASS grows at last above all graves, you say?—

Why, therein lies the sharpest sting of all!

To think that stars will rise and dews will fall,  
Hills flush with purple splendor, soft winds play  
Where roses bloom and violets of May,

Robin to robin in the tree-tops call,

And all sweet sights and sounds the senses thrall,  
Just as they did before that dreadful day!

Does that bring comfort? Are we glad to know  
That our eyes sometime must forget to weep,

Even as June forgets December's snow?

Over the graves where our belovèd sleep,

We charge thee, Time, let not the green grass grow,  
Nor your relentless mosses coldly creep!

## AT THE TOMB.

O, SOUL ! rememberest thou how Mary went  
In the gray dawn to weep beside the tomb  
Where one she loved lay buried ? Through the  
gloom,

Pallid with pain, and with long anguish spent,  
Still pressed she on with solemn, high intent,  
Bearing her costly gifts of rare perfume  
And spices odorous with eastern bloom,  
Unto the Master's sepulcher ! But rent  
Was the great stone from its low door away ;  
And when she stooped to peer with startled eyes  
Into the dark where slept the pallid clay,  
Lo, it was gone ! And there in heavenly guise,  
So grandly calm, so fair in morn's first ray,  
She found an angel from the upper skies !

## AT REST.

“‘ WHEN Greek meets Greek,’ you know,” he sadly said,

“‘ Then comes the tug of war.’ I deem him great,  
And own him wise and good. Yet adverse fate  
Hath made us enemies. If I were dead,  
And buried deep with grave-mold on my head,  
I still believe, that, came he soon or late  
Where I was lying in my last estate,  
My dust would quiver at his lightest tread!”

The slow years passed; and one fair summer night,  
When the low sun was reddening all the west,  
I saw two grave-mounds, where the grass was  
bright,  
Lying so near each other that the crest  
Of the same wave touched each with amber light.  
But, ah, dear hearts! how undisturbed their rest!

F. A. F.

WHEN upon eyes long dim, to whom the light  
Of sun and stars had unfamiliar grown,—  
Eyes that so long in deepening shades had known  
The mystic visions of the inner sight,—  
Day broke, at last, after the weary night,  
I cannot think its sudden glory shone  
In pitiless brightness, dazzling, clear, and white—  
A piercing splendor on the darkness thrown!  
Softly as moonlight steals upon the skies,  
Slowly as shadows creep at set of sun,  
Gently as falls a mother's tender kiss,  
So softly stole the light upon his eyes;  
So slowly passed the shadows one by one;  
So gently dawned the morning of his bliss!

## TOO WIDE!

O MIGHTY Earth, thou art too wide, too wide !  
Too vast thy continents, too broad thy seas,  
Too far thy prairies stretching fair as these  
Now reddening in the sunset's crimson tide !  
Sundered by thee how have thy children cried  
Each to some other, until every breeze  
Has borne a burden of fond messages  
That all unheard in thy lone wastes have died !  
Draw closer, O dear Earth, thy hills that soar  
Up to blue skies such countless leagues apart !  
Bid thou thine awful spaces smaller grow !  
Compass thy billows with a narrower shore,  
That yearning lips may meet, heart beat to heart,  
And parted souls forget their lonely woe !

## RESURGAMUS.

WHAT though we sleep a thousand leagues apart,  
I by my mountains, you beside your sea ?  
What though our moss-grown graves divided be  
By the wide reaches of a continent's heart ?  
When from long slumber we at length shall start  
Wakened to stronger life, exultant, free,  
This mortal clothed in immortality,  
Where shall I find my heaven save where thou art ?  
Straight as a bird that hasteth to its nest,  
Glad as an eagle soaring to the light,  
Swift as the thought that bears my soul to thine  
When yon lone star hangs trembling in the west,  
So straight, so glad, so swift to thee my flight,  
Led on through farthest space by love divine !

## IN KING'S CHAPEL.

(BOSTON, Nov. 3, 1878.)

O, LORD OF HOSTS, how sacred is this place,  
Where, though the tides of time resistless flow,  
And the long generations come and go,  
Thou still abidest! In this holy space  
The very airs are hushed before Thy face,  
And wait in reverent calm, as voices low  
Blend in the prayers and chantings, soft and slow,  
And the gray twilight stealeth on apace.  
Hark! There are whispers from the time-worn walls;  
The mighty dead glide up the shadowy aisle;  
And there are rustlings as of angels' wings  
While from the choir the heavenly music falls!  
Well may we bow in grateful praise the while—  
In the King's Chapel reigns the King of Kings!

## THY NAME.

WHAT matters it what men may call Thee, Thou,  
The Eternal One, who reign'st supreme, alone,  
The boundless universe Thy mighty throne ?  
When souls before Thee reverently bow,  
Oh, carest Thou what name the lips breathe low  
Jove, or Osiris, or the God Unknown  
To whom the Athenians raised their altar stone,  
Or Thine, O Holiest, unto whom we vow ?  
The sun hath many names in many lands ;  
Yet upon all its golden splendors fall,  
Where'er, from age to age entreating still,  
The adoring earth uplifts its waiting hands.  
Love knows all names and answereth to all—  
Who worships Thee may call Thee what he will !

## THREE DAYS.

### I.

WHAT shall I bring to lay upon thy bier  
O Yesterday ! thou day forever dead ?  
With what strange garlands shall I crown thy head,  
Thou silent One ?—For rose and rue are near  
Which thou thyself didst bring me ; heart's-ease clear  
And dark in purple opulence that shed  
Rare odors round—worm-wood, and herbs that fed  
My soul with bitterness—they all are here !  
When to the banquet I was called by thee  
Thou gavest me rags and royal robes to wear ;  
Honey and aloes mingled in the cup  
Of costly wine that thou didst pour for me ;  
Thy throne, thy footstool, thou didst bid me share ;  
On crusts and heavenly manna bade me sup !

## II.

THOU art no dreamer, O, thou stern To-day !  
The dead past had its dreams ; the real is thine.  
An armored knight, in panoply divine,  
It is not thine to loiter by the way,  
Though all the meads with summer flowers be gay,  
Though birds sing for thee, and though fair stars  
shine,  
And every god pours for thee life's best wine !  
Nor friend nor foe hath strength to bid thee stay.  
Gleaming beneath thy brows with smoldering fire  
Thine eyes look out upon the eternal hills  
As forth thou ridest with thy spear in rest.  
From the far heights a voice cries, " Come up higher ! "  
And in swift answer all thy being thrills,  
When lo ! 't is night—thy sun is in the west !

## III.

BUT thou, To-morrow ! never yet was born  
In earth's dull atmosphere a thing so fair—  
Never yet tripped, with footsteps light as air,  
So glad a vision o'er the hills of morn !  
Fresh as the radiant dawning,—all unworn  
By lightest touch of sorrow, or of care,  
Thou dost the glory of the morning share  
By snowy wings of hope and faith upborne !  
O, fair To-morrow ! what our souls have missed  
Art thou not keeping for us, somewhere, still ?  
The buds of promise that have never blown—  
The tender lips that we have never kissed—  
The song whose high, sweet strain eludes our skill—  
The one white pearl that life hath never known !

## VERMONT.

(WRITTEN FOR THE VERMONT CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, AT  
BENNINGTON, AUGUST 15, 1877.)

### I.

O, WOMAN-FORM, majestic, strong and fair,  
Sitting enthronèd where in upper air  
Thy mountain-peaks in solemn grandeur rise,  
Piercing the splendor of the summer skies,—  
Vermont! Our mighty mother, crowned to-day

In all the glory of thine hundred years,  
If thou dost bid me sing, how can I but obey?  
What though the lips may tremble, and the verse  
That fain would grandly thy grand deeds rehearse  
May trip and falter, and the stammering tongue  
Leave all unrhymed the rhymes that should be sung?  
I can but do thy bidding, as is meet,  
Bowing in humble homage at thy feet—  
Thy royal feet—and if my words are weak,  
O crownèd one, 't was thou didst bid me speak!

## II.

YET what is there to say,  
Even on this proud day,  
This day of days, that hath not oft been said ?  
    What song is there to sing  
        That hath not oft been sung ?  
    What laurel can we bring,  
        That Ages have not hung  
A thousand times above their glorious dead ?  
    What crown to crown the living  
        Is left us for our giving,  
    That is not shaped to other brows,  
        That wore it long ago ?  
    Our very vows but echo vows  
        Breathed centuries ago !  
    Earth has no choral strain,  
        No sweet or sad refrain,  
    No lofty paean swelling loud and clear,  
        That Virgil did not know,  
    Or Dante, wandering slow  
        In mystic trances, did not pause to hear !

When gods from high Olympus came  
To touch old Homer's lips with flame,  
The morning stars together sung  
To teach their raptures to his tongue.  
For him the lonely ocean moaned ;  
For him the mighty winds intoned  
Their deep-voiced chantings, and for him  
Sweet flower-bells pealed in forests dim.  
From earth and sea and sky he caught  
The spell of their divinest thought,  
While yet it blossomed fresh and new  
As Eden's rosebuds wet with dew !  
Oh ! to have lived when earth was young,  
With all its melodies unsung !  
The dome of Heaven bent nearer then  
When gods and angels talked with men,—  
When Song itself was newly born,  
The Incarnation of the Morn !  
But now, alas ! all thought is old,  
All life is but a story told,  
And poet-tongues are manifold ;  
And he is bold who tries to wake

Even for God, or Country's sake,  
In voice, or pen, or lute, or lyre,  
Sparks of the old Promethean fire !

## III.

AND yet,—O Earth, thank God!—the soul of song  
Is as immortal as the eternal stars !  
O, trembling heart ! take courage and be strong.  
Hark ! to a voice from yonder crystal bars :—

*“ Did the roses blow last June ?  
Do the stars still rise and set ?  
And over the crests of the mountains  
Are the light clouds floating yet ?  
Do the rivers run to the sea  
With a deep, resistless flow ?  
Do the little birds sing north and south  
As the seasons come and go ?*

*“ Are the hills as fair as of old ?  
Are the skies as blue and far ?*

*Have you lost the pomp of the sunset,  
Or the light of the evening star?  
Has the glory gone from the morning?  
Do the wild winds wail no more?  
Is there now no thunder of billows  
Beating the storm-lashed shore?*

*“Is Love a forgotten story?  
Is Passion a jester’s theme?  
Has Valor thrown down its armor?  
Is Honor an idle dream?  
Is there no pure trust in woman?  
No conquering faith in God?  
Are there no feet strong to follow  
In the paths the martyrs trod?*

*“Did you find no hero graves  
When your violets bloomed last May—  
Prouder than those of Marathon,  
Or ‘old Platea’s day’?  
When your red and white and blue  
On the free winds fluttered out,*

*Were there no strong hearts and voices  
To receive it with a shout?  
Oh ! let the Earth grow old ?  
And the burning stars grow cold !  
And, if you will, declare man's story told !  
Yet, pure as faith is pure,  
And sure as death is sure,  
As long as love shall live, shall song endure ! ”*

## IV.

WHEN one by one the stately, silent Years  
Glide like pale ghosts beyond our yearning sight,  
Vainly we stretch our arms to stay their flight,  
So soon, so swift, they pass to endless night !  
We hardly learn to name them,  
To praise them, or to blame them,  
To know their shadowy faces,  
Ere we see their empty places !  
Only once the glad Spring greets them ;  
Only once fair Summer meets them ;  
Only once the Autumn glory

Tells for them its mystic story ;  
Only once the Winter hoary  
Weaves for them its robes of light !

Years leave their work half done ; like men, alas !  
With sheaves ungathered to their graves they pass,  
And are forgotten. What they strive to do  
Lives for a while in memory of a few ;  
Then over all Oblivion's waters flow —  
The Years are buried in the Long Ago !

But when a Century dies, what room is there for tears ?  
Rather in solemn exaltation let us come,  
With roll of drum  
(Not muffled as in woe),

With blare of bugles, and the liquid flow  
Of silver clarions, and the long appeal  
Of the clear trumpets ringing peal on peal  
With clash of bells, and hosts in proud array  
To pay meet homage to its burial day !  
For its proud work is done. Its name is writ  
Where all the ages that come after it  
Shall read the eternal letters, blazoned high  
On the blue dome of the impartial sky.

What ruthless fate can darken its renown,  
Or dim the luster of its starry crown ?  
On mountain-peaks of Time each Century stands  
alone ;  
And each, for glory or for shame, hath reaped what  
it hath sown !

## v.

BUT this—the one that gave thee birth  
A hundred years ago, O beauteous mother !  
This mighty century had a mightier brother,  
Who from the watching earth  
Passed but last year ! Twin-born indeed were they,—  
For what are twelve months to the womb of time  
Pregnant with ages ?—Hand in hand they climbed  
With clear, young eyes uplifted to the stars,  
With great, strong souls that never stopped for bars,  
Through storm and darkness up to glorious day !  
Each knew the other's need ; each in his breast  
The subtle tie of closest kin confessed ;  
Counted the other's honor as his own ;  
Nor feared to sit upon a separate throne ;

Nor loved each other less when—wondrous fate!—  
One gave a Nation life, and one a State!

## VI.

OH! rude the cradle in which each was rocked,—  
The infant Nation, and the infant State!  
Rough nurses were the Centuries, that mocked  
At mother-kisses, and for mother-arms  
Gave their young nurslings sudden harsh alarms,  
Quick blows and stern rebuffs. They bade them  
wait,  
Often in cold and hunger, while the feast  
Was spread for others, and, though last not least,  
Gave them sharp swords for playthings, and the din  
Of actual battle for the mimic strife  
That childhood glories in!  
Yet not the less they loved them. Spartans they  
Who could not rear a weak, effeminate brood.  
Better the forest's awful solitude,  
Better the desert spaces, where the day  
Wanders from dawn to dusk and finds no life!

## VII.

BUT over all the tireless years swept on,  
Till side by side the Centuries grew old,  
And the young Nation, great and strong and bold,  
Forgot its early struggles, in triumphs later won !  
It stretched its arms from East to West ;  
It gathered to its mighty breast  
From every clime, from every soil,  
The hunted sons of want and toil ;  
It gave to each a dwelling-place ;  
It blent them in one common race ;  
And over all, from sea to sea,  
Wide flew the banner of the free !  
It did not fear the wrath of kings,  
Nor the dread grip of deadlier things —  
Gaunt Famine with its ghastly horde,  
Dishonor sheathing its foul sword,  
Nor faithless friend, nor treacherous blow  
Struck in the dark by stealthy foe ;  
For over all its wide domain,  
From shore to shore, from main to main,

From vale to mountain-top, it saw  
The reign of plenty, peace, and law !

## VIII.

THUS fared the Nation, prosperous, great, and free,  
Prophet and herald of the good to be;  
And on its humbler way, in calm content,  
The lesser State, the while, serenely went.  
Safe in her mountain fastnesses she dwelt,  
Her life's first cares forgot, its woes unfelt,  
And thought her bitterest tears had all been shed,  
For peace was in her borders, and God reigned  
overhead.

## IX.

BUT suddenly over the hills there came  
A cry that rent her with grief and shame—  
A cry from the Nation in sore distress,  
Stricken down in the pride of its mightiness !  
With passionate ardor up she sprang,  
And her voice like the peal of a trumpet rang,

“ What ho ! what ho ! brave sons of mine,  
Strong with the strength of the mountain pine !  
To the front of the battle, away ! away !  
The Nation is bleeding in deadly fray,  
The Nation, it may be, is dying to-day !  
On, then, to the rescue ! away ! away ! ”

## x.

AH ! how they answered let the ages tell,  
For they shall guard the sacred story well !  
Green grows the grass, to-day, on many a battle-field ;  
War’s dread alarms are o’er; its scars are healed ;  
Its bitter agony has found surcease ;  
A re-united land clasps hands in peace.  
But, oh ! ye blessed dead, whose graves are strown  
From where our forests make perpetual moan,  
To those far shores where smiling Southern seas  
Give back soft murmurs to the fragrant breeze,—  
Oh ! ye who drained for us the bitter cup,  
Think ye we can forget what ye have offered up ?  
The years will come and go, and other centuries die,

And generation after generation lie  
Down in the dust; but long as stars shall shine,  
Long as Vermont's green hills shall bear the pine,  
As long as Killington shall proudly lift  
Its lofty peak above the storm-cloud's rift,  
Or Mansfield hail the blue, o'erarching skies,  
Or fair Mount Anthony in grandeur rise,  
So long shall live the deeds that ye have done,  
So deathless be the glory ye have won !

## XI.

Not with exultant joy  
And pride without alloy,  
Did the twin Centuries rejoice when all was o'er.  
What though the Nation rose  
Triumphant o'er its foes ?  
What though the State had gained  
The meed of faith unstained ?  
Their mighty hearts remembered the dead that came  
no more !  
Remembered all the losses,  
The weary, weary crosses,

Remembered earth was poorer for the blood that  
had been shed,  
And knew that it was sadder for the story it had  
read !

So clasping hands with somewhat saddened mien,  
And eyes uplifted to the Great Unseen  
That rules alike o'er Centuries and men,  
Onward they walked serenely towards—the End !

## XII.

ONE reached it last year. Ye remember well  
The wondrous tale there is no need to tell—  
How the whole world bowed down beside its bier,  
How all the Nations came, from far or near,  
Heaping their treasures on its mighty pall—  
Never had kingliest king such funeral !  
Old Asia rose, and girding her in haste,  
Swept in her jeweled robes across the waste,  
And called to Egypt lying prone and hid  
Where waits the Sphinx beside the pyramid ;  
Fair Europe came with overflowing hands,

Bearing the riches of her many lands ;  
Dark Afric, laden with her virgin gold,  
Yet laden deeper with her woes untold ;  
Japan and China in grotesque array,  
And all the enchanted islands of Cathay !

## XIII.

To-DAY the other dies.  
It walked in humbler guise,  
Nor stood where all men's eyes  
Were fixed upon it.  
Earth may not pause to lay  
A wreath upon its bier,  
Nor the world heed to-day  
Our dead that lieth here !  
Yet well they loved each other—  
It and its greater brother.  
To loftiest stature grown,  
Each earned its own renown ;  
Each sought of Time a crown,  
And each has won it.

## XIV.

BUT what to us are Centuries dead,  
And rolling Years forever fled,  
Compared with thee, O grand and fair  
Vermont—our goddess-mother?  
Strong with the strength of thy verdant hills,  
Fresh with the freshness of mountain-rills,  
Pure as the breath of the fragrant pine,  
Glad with the gladness of youth divine,  
Serenely thou sittest throned to-day  
Where the free winds that round thee play  
Rejoice in thy waves of sun-bright hair,  
O thou, our glorious mother!  
Rejoice in thy beautiful strength and say,  
Earth holds not such another!  
Thou art not old with thy hundred years,  
Nor worn with toil, or care, or tears;  
But all the glow of the summer time  
Is thine to-day in thy glorious prime!  
Thy brow is fair as the winter snows,  
With a stately calm in its still repose;

While the breath of the rose the wild bee sips  
Half-mad with joy, cannot eclipse  
The marvelous sweetness of thy lips ;  
And the deepest blue of the laughing skies  
Hides in the depths of thy fearless eyes,  
Gazing afar over land and sea  
Wherever thy wandering children be !  
Fold on fold,  
Over thy form of grandest mold,  
Floweth thy robe of forest green,  
Now light, now dark, in its emerald sheen.  
Its broidered hem is of wild flowers rare,  
With feathery fern-fronds light as air  
Fringing its borders. In thy hair  
Sprays of the pink arbutus twine,  
And the curling rings of the wild grape vine.  
Thy girdle is woven of silver streams ;  
Its clasp with the opaline luster gleams  
Of a lake asleep in the sunset beams ;  
And, half concealing  
And half revealing,  
Floats over all a veil of mist  
Pale tinted with rose and amethyst !

## XV.

RISE up, O noble mother of great sons,  
Worthy to rank among earth's mightiest ones,  
And daughters fair and beautiful and good,  
Yet wise and strong in loftiest womanhood,—  
Rise from thy throne, and standing far and high  
Outlined against the blue, adoring sky,  
Lift up thy voice, and stretch thy loving hands  
In benediction o'er these waiting lands!  
Take thou our fealty! at thy feet we bow,  
Glad to renew each oft-repeated vow!  
No costly gifts we bring to thee to-day;  
No votive wreaths upon thy shrine we lay;  
Take thou our hearts, then!—hearts that fain would be  
From this day forth, O goddess, worthier thee!

## A LAST WORD.

WHERE will it go to reach thine ears?

My father, thou dost wear  
Somewhere beyond the stars to-night  
Thy crown of silver hair.

Somewhere thou *art*. No wandering ghost  
In vast, vague realms of space—  
But thine own self, majestic, fair,  
In thine appointed place.

By one long look thy soul replied  
When last I cried to thee,  
As thou wert drifting out of sight  
Upon the unknown sea;

And well I know that thou wouldest turn  
Even from joys divine,

If but thy listening ears could hear  
One faltering word of mine.

Yet, knowing this, I cannot lay  
My book upon thy knee,  
Saying, "O father, once again  
I bring my sheaves to thee!"



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scheme as made out for two consecutive meetings:

#### SECOND AND THIRD CENTURIES (from A. D. 180).

Roman History from the Antonines to Constantine. Zenobia, Queen of Palmyra.

#### SIXTH CENTURY.

Sketch of the Eastern and Western Empires, including Justinian and his Code of Laws. Eusebius, the First Historian. Reading of Boyesen's "Cal-purnia."

#### NINTH CENTURY.

England under Egbert and Alfred the Great. Division of Charlemagne's Empire. The Feudal System.

This will give an idea of what the bird's-eye view gave. The years were as a vast plain, out of which rose here and there the mountain ranges of great events, and over which strode majestic figures, shadowy in the distance, yet clearly discernible.

In their fifth year the "Friends" wrestled with the history of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries; and by a pleasant but wholly accidental coincidence, the present season found them on the brink of the sixteenth century,—the era of the Reformation,—their scheme including the first half only, or down to the reign of Elizabeth.

The society year begins with the first Wednesday in October, and the scheme is made out in full before the end of the previous May, and the parts assigned.

Referring to the cottage Burns Pilgrimage," in THE CENTURY of September last, the author says: "No doubt 'Nansie Tinnock's was a lighter, whiter, cheerier place than now, else the Jolly Beggars would never have gone there to tipple.' Burns mentions Nansie but once in his poems — in "The Author's Earnest Cry and Prayer to the Scotch Representatives in the House of Commons."

"Tell you guid bluid o' auld Boconnocks,  
I'll be his debt twa mushlum bonnocks,  
An' drink in auld Nansie Tinnock's  
Nine times a week,  
If he some scheme, like 'tea an' wimnocks,  
Wad kindly seek."

In a foot-note in the "Kilmarnock Edition," he says of her: "A worthy old hostess of the author's in Mauchline, where he sometimes studies politics over a glass of 'guid auld Scotch drink.'" She was a most respectable person, and after her death the chair in which the bard sat when he visited her house was presented to the Masonic Lodge in Mauchline by Dr. Hamilton, son of Gavin Hamilton, and the "wee curlie John" of the "Dedication." She is buried in the church-yard, and her stone, with those of "Daddy Auld" and other characters of the poems, may yet be seen.

It is in the cantata of the "Jolly Beggars" that

"Ae night at e'en a merry core  
O' raddie, gangrel bodies,  
In Poosie Nansie's held the splore.  
So sung the bard, and Nansie's wa's  
Shook with a thunder of applause."



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